

Husband's Name: **JOSEPH JOHN SMITH, SENIOR**

Born: 6 January 1883 Hosszú-Láz, Zemplén Megye, Hungary<sup>1</sup>  
 Married: 15 August 1905 Forest City, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania<sup>2</sup>  
 Died: 5 September 1940 Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey  
 Buried: *Saint Peter and Saint Paul Slavonic Roman Catholic Cemetery*, Trenton.

Father: JÁNOS SCHMID (15 July 1855 to 15 May 1905)  
 Mother: ANNA UNTENER (1856 to 30 September 1896)

Wife's Name: **ANNA MARY KUTARNIA**

Born: 22 July 1889 Plymouth, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania<sup>3</sup>  
 Died: 1 November 1978 Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey  
 Buried: *Saint Peter and Saint Paul Slavonic Roman Catholic Cemetery*, Trenton.

Father: JOZEF KUTARNYA (6 January 1862 to 21 April 1922)  
 Mother: KATHRYN HASZAY (December 1864 to 11 March 1933)

Issue:	Born:	Where:
1) MARY MARGARET SMITH	1 September 1906	Forest City (Susquehanna) PA
2) JOSEPH JOHN SMITH, JUNIOR	6 October 1907	Forest City (Susquehanna) PA
3) ANNIE SMITH	2 April 1909	Forest City (Susquehanna) PA
4) HELEN SMITH	16 February 1912	Simpson (Lackawanna) PA
5) MICHAEL JOSEPH SMITH	1 November 1913	Jessup (Lackawanna) PA
6) MARGARET ROMAYNE SMITH	15 December 1917	Forest City (Susquehanna) PA
7) JOHN J. SMITH	14 June 1920	Forest City (Susquehanna) PA
8) KATHRYN VIRGINIA SMITH	12 July 1924	Braeholm, Logan County, WV
9) VALENTINE WILLIAM SMITH	12 July 1924	<b>Braeholm, Logan County, WV</b>

On 15 August 1905 they were married at *Saint Anthony of Padua* (Lithuanian) Roman Catholic Church at 512 Lackawanna Street in Forest City. The ceremony was performed by FATHER JANOS KURAS. The best-man was FRANCIS "FRANK" KUTARNIA and the maid-of-honor was ANNA TIMKO (*or TEMKO*).<sup>4</sup> There were two women with that name living on the town at the time, one was ANNA TIMKO (1869 – 1945) daughter of GEORGE and MARY TIMKO and the other was ANNA (1869 – 1945), the wife of MICHAEL WARHOLA; she was the daughter of MICHAEL TIMKO; and all 3 lived on Delaware Street near the KUTARNIA homestead. MICHAEL and ANNA are buried in *Saint Johns Cemetery*. At the time there was this Lithuanian church, a Polish church (*Sacred Heart of Jesus*) and a Slovenian church (*Saint Joseph's*) to choose from, besides the Irish *Saint Agnes*. A Slovak National Church, *Saint Michael the Archangel*, finally opened in 1914. They resided with the bride's parents, JOSEPH and KATTIE KUTARNIA, but it isn't known if they were in the KUTARNIA homestead at 243 Delaware initially or the property next door at 239

Delaware Street.<sup>5</sup> JOSEPH and his mother-in-law were frequently “at odds” with each other. It appears that KATHRYN was not pleased with ANNA’S choice of a husband as he was not Slovak. They remained in Forest City until at least 1910, where they are found living in the house at 239 Delaware Street owned by ANNA’S parents. JOSEPH was a hotel proprietor by this time and they had three children: MARY, JOSEPH JUNIOR, and ANNIE.<sup>6</sup> In Forest City, MARY and JOSEPH attended a *Slavish* school where the classes were taught in Slovak; why this was done is not known. They moved south along the Lackawanna River to Simpson, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania where they operated a produce market and a clothing store. Their fourth child, HELEN, was born in the produce market.<sup>7</sup> On 9 September 1909 JOSEPH filed for naturalization in the U.S. District Court, in Scranton, Pennsylvania and received it on 28 December 1911.<sup>8</sup> Continuing southward along the Lackawanna River, they moved to Jessup, Pennsylvania where they ran a beer-garden. The beer garden should not be confused with a bar. Ladies were not allowed in bars but a beer garden was different. There was a dance floor and tables and couples would spend an evening there dancing to live music and talking. There is a section of the town, called the “Basalyga Patch” that was heavily populated with immigrants from Eastern Europe and may have been the location of the beer garden. The use of this term may be an attempt to give the establishment a classier sound as one old timer from the County Recorder’s Office could not recall there ever being such an establishment there.<sup>9</sup> One of the SMITH boys referred to the business as a bar when describing an incident years later when he went to the bar with his mother. ANNA walked in, went to the bar and, pointing to gouge in the top, described how a delivery man scratched the surface!<sup>10</sup> Their fifth child, MICHAEL, was born in the beer garden.<sup>11</sup>

They returned to Forest City by September 1918 where they moved back in with ANNA’S parents at 237 Delaware St. He worked as a laborer in the coal mines for *Hillside Coal and Iron Company* as did his father-in-law.<sup>12</sup> This company was the principal subsidiary of the *Erie Railroad* and had leased all of the Forest City area for its mining activities. 80% of coal mining was done by the “railroad coal companies” who wanted to control retail prices and guarantee their own needs with their very low cost being subsidized by the retail purchaser. However Hillside was not profitable and the Erie had to provide almost \$800K to cover a 5-year deficit from 1904 to 1908.

They had two more children: MARGARET and JOHN. On 15 June 1919, ANNA applied for membership in the Forest City Lodge Number 23 of the *Greek Catholic Union of Rusyn Brotherhoods* (est 1892). On her application she gives her birth date as 22 June 1890 and lists her husband as beneficiary of a \$1000.00 insurance policy.<sup>13</sup> ANNA was not Greek Catholic but may have identified with the Rusyn identity – that being Ukrainians that lived in the Carpathian Mountains. She may have also joined the National Slovak Society (est 1890) around this time, following the example set by her parents, for there are vague references to an insurance policy issued for her by that fraternal association. By January 1920 they had moved to nearby 36 Maxey Street where JOHN was born. JOSEPH was working as a machinist in the coal mines. The census gives his birthplace as “JugoSlav” and mother tongue as “Sloven”.<sup>14</sup>

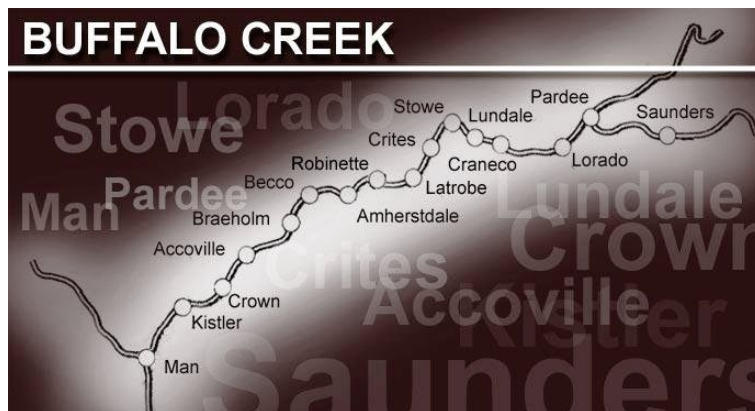
About this time, “MR. FORD” representing the *Buffalo Eagle Collier Company* of West Virginia came to Forest City and offered families’ good pay, room and board if they would

relocate. It is thought the company may have had a “partner” mine in Forest City, perhaps *Hillside Coal and Iron*. Coal mining along Buffalo Creek in Logan County began in earnest after 1912 when a railroad spur was run along the creek bed by the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad. ANNA was asked to run a boarding house there, which she agreed to do. As JOSEPH and his mother-in-law did not get along this was the perfect opportunity to move. ANNA was so insistent that when JOSEPH got “cold feet” and was ready to stay in Forest City, ANNA told him, in a firm manner, that she would be on the train with the children whether or not he was there. In fact, ANNA used to tell the story that she and the children were waiting at the train station in Forest City and she had to send the older children to a local pub to fetch JOSEPH! JOSEPH acquiesced and they moved, by train, to West Virginia. JOSEPH, who spent years working in the mines started to develop serious “rheumatism” by his mid-30s. It became increasingly difficult for him to walk the distances required in the mines. JOSEPH was hired as a recruiter for the mines, traveling to obtain the labor necessary for the mines while ANNA would operate a boarding house. Nineteen families, including JOSEPH’S, moved to Becco, Triadelphia Township, Logan County, West Virginia, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1920.<sup>15</sup>

Just 6 months earlier the first violent clash between miners and management that trumpeted the bloodiest battle on the country’s soil since the civil war took place in Matewan some 30 miles southwest of Becco in Mingo County on 19 May 1920. The death count came to 10: 2 miners, 7 *detectives* of the anti-union Baldwin-Felts Agency, and the sheriff of the town. The state was placed under martial law and all civil liberties were suspended as was the freedom to associate, freedom of the press, and freedom of movement. The agency retaliated by using at least 6 men to gun down the sheriff of Matewan on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August in 1921 as he descended the McDowell County Courts stairs with his traumatized wife at his side. The conflict came to a head at the end of August with a 5-day battle centered on Blair Mountain, just 10 miles north of Becco in Logan County between 10,000 miners, 3,000 mine owner agents including local law enforcement, and a force of 27,000 men from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments of the US Army stationed at Fort Sherman, Ohio supplemented with Martin MB-1 bombers being flown in for surveillance from Maryland. Poison gas and high-explosive bombs left over from the Great War were dropped from planes during the confrontation with the Army holding firm to their statement that the planes that bombed US towns were hired by the Baldwin-Felts Agency. Logan County was a safe-haven for the mine owners who bought the sheriffs office and installed business-owner-friendly officials at all level of government. All mine workers had to sign *yellow-dog* contracts forcing them to give up the rights guaranteed to them under the Federal and State laws. The SMITH family moved into this maelstrom of authoritarianism; whether or not they knew the danger they were placing themselves in is not certain nor is it known if they had any understanding of the part they would play in trampling of the very same rights afforded them by the US Constitution that both families had only recently secured for themselves. Not exactly the safest place to raise a family and definitely not something to be proud of as future events revealed.

Becco was named using the first letters of the *Buffalo Eagle Collier Company*.<sup>16</sup> Only Becco mine # 2 and mine # 3 were producing between 1925 and 1928; the combined output, in tons (chronological order by year) was 614,792; 427,574; 413,788 and 341,906. The company

owned everything and paid its employees with company script which could only be used at the company owned drugstore and provisions store in town. Other businesses were allowed, such as shoe repair, but the mine owned the property. All the businesses closed at 5:00 pm except for the drugstore which closed at 9:00 pm. The last show of the movie house would be over by 9:00 pm which was the time the whistle blew in town to let everyone know the time. The whistle would again blow at 5:00 am to wake the miners and the children. Each *company town* had their own mining company and throughout the town was different openings for the mines, each assigned their own number. The company built a small grade school and non-denominational church in each town. Once you stopped working for the company you must move as the company owned the house you were in. Several of the small towns were host to more than one mining company.



Buffalo Creek ran through a valley down from the mountain and along its course were the railroad and several small towns, including **BECCO**. These towns were actually built in the creek's flood plain and were centered on a small stream which ran into Buffalo Creek. The stream led the way *up into the hollow*. The farthest up the creek were 2 mining camps: **PARDEE** on the Toney Branch of the creek had

the *Lorado Coal Company* and **THREE FORKS** on the Three Forks Branch had the *Three Forks Coal Company*. **THREE FORKS** was later renamed **SAUNDERS**. The first real town "up the creek" was **LORADO** founded in 1914 as **LORAIN** where Davy Creek flows into Buffalo Creek. Named after the *Lorain Coal and Dock Company*, it was renamed **LORADO** in 1915; in 1920 the population was near 800. After the town name changed, so did the company, it became the *Lorado Coal and Dock Company*. The *Lorado Coal Mining Company* also operated in the town. Further along the creek were the towns of **CRANECO** named after the Cincinnati-based lumbar company *Crane and Cole*, **LUNDALE** with the *Lundale Coal Company*, *Amherst Coal Company* and the *Logan County Coal Corporation*; **STOWE** and the *Long Flame Coal Company*; **CRITES**, home of the *Logan Eagle Coal Company*; **LATROBE**, where the *Logan Eagle Coal Company* had a second mine as did the *Lundale Coal Company*; **ROBINETTE** was named after the family that owned the store there and no mines have been identified with the town; then came a trio of towns affiliated with the *Amherst Coal Company* and the *Buffalo Eagle Colliery Company* – **AMHERSTDALE**, **BECCO**, and **BRAEHOLM**. The owners of the *Amherst Coal Company* all hailed from Amherst County, Virginia and one, GEORGE JONES, offered the suggestion of affixing 'dale' to the county name to serve as the companies name.<sup>17</sup> **AMHERSTDALE** (1920 population near 390) also had the *Guyan Eagle Coal Company* and *Prockter Eagle Coal Company* operating mines there. **BRAEHOLM** was founded as **SHERMAN** in 1916, became **BAYMAN** in 1918 and was renamed **BRAEHOLM** in 1920.<sup>18</sup> The older SMITH children recall the *BECCO company store* being in **AMHERSTDALE**. This may indicate that the owners of *Buffalo Eagle* had business dealings



with the owners of *Amherst Coal* since the scrip of one company was not usually accepted at businesses owned by a different company. Leaving **BRAEHOLM** and continuing down the creek towards **MAN**, the next town, **ACCOVILLE**, was established about 1916 and was located at the mouth of the Right Fork of Buffalo Creek.<sup>19</sup> The *Amherst Coal Company* was very prominent in the area and **ACCOVILLE** was named, possibly by JONES, by using the first letters of the company's name. **ACCOVILLE** also had

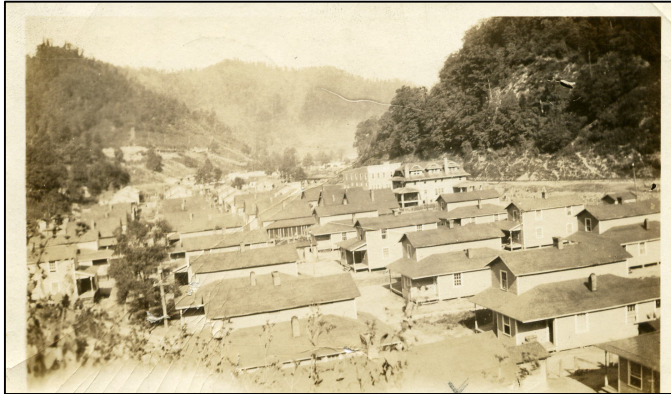
mines from the *Buffalo Creek Coal and Coke Company*, the *Carbon Hill Collieries Company*, the *Deegan-Eagle Coal Company*, the *Loash Coal Company*, and the *R.R. Smith Coal Company*. The next town was **CROWN** which had the *Callaway Eagle Coal Company*, *Crown Hill Coal Company*, *Guyan Valley Coal Company*, *Lax Coal Company* and the *Loash Coal Company* followed by **KISTER** with the *Bengal Coal Company*, *Buffalo Chilton Coal Company*, *Burgess Branch Coal Company*, *Eagle Island Coal Company*, *Utilities Coal Company*, *West Virginia Southern Coal Company* and finally **MAN**, the total distance being about 25 miles from **LORADO** to **MAN**.

The mines recruited heavily from the eastern European communities in and around Pittsburgh, Scranton and other mining centers during the 1920s. Buffalo Creek had many distinct ethnic populations and most towns had informal socializing groups and Sunday was for visiting your compatriots in neighboring towns. Becco had one main business street with residences at either end. Becco's businesses included JACKSON'S Barber shop and MENKO'S shoe shop (possibly the same who were baptismal sponsors for VALENTINE); the general store was in Amherstdale. It was a segregated area with black people living *across the creek* (access was across the railroad bridges) from the main part of town.<sup>20</sup>

At first, the SMITHS had two houses, side-by-side, one for the family and one for boarders, at the base of a hill of slate removed from the mine, not to be confused with the later one *up in the hollow*.<sup>21</sup> It was common for most of the *foreign* people to operate boarding houses. A family would rent one or more houses from the mining company for a set rent. The family would then charge each boarder for their room and meals. The meals included bacon and eggs for breakfast, big sandwiches from fresh bread and leftovers for lunch and meat and potatoes for dinner. The boarders were very transient, sometimes only being around for a month before moving to another mine. As the mines closed, the European communities were no longer viewed with a kind eye but with a distrustful one. Jobs dwindled and the ethnic Americans were left to fend for themselves in numbers greater than their proportionate size justified as their unemployment soared in comparison to *natural Americans*; disillusioned with this new *American* way, most had left the area by 1950.



Each house had five rooms on the first floor. The central front door led directly to the stairs that went to the second floor. On the first floor, to the left of the staircase was the living room; to the right, the dining room. Behind the living room was an office or workroom. Next to the dining room was the kitchen and behind this was JOSEPH and ANNA's bedroom. The boarder's house was next door and was similar in layout. Behind these was a small barn for cows, chickens, a horse and, occasionally a pig would be bought for slaughter. JOSEPH also brewed jug-wine in the attic of the house. West Virginia was a dry state but the foreigners always



had liquor as it was custom and considered impolite to not be able to offer your fellow countryman a drink. The men would meet, converse in their native language, play instruments, if they knew how, and drink. The first floor *office* served as the *moonshine room* where the boarders would *throw a buck in the drawer* to imbibe in the jug-wine or moonshine sitting in jugs on the counter.<sup>22</sup> There were occasional visits by the *revenueurs*. The still was dismantled and hidden within the house. One large part

was a rain barrel which would be placed in the yard and a wash tub was placed over it, often with little JOHNNY SMITH atop, as if it had always been there.<sup>23</sup>

When they first arrived their spiritual needs were met by a mission of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church of Logan, WV. Services were held in Lundale under the name of Saint Michael's with baptismal and marriage registers commencing in 1919. Saint Michael's became a parish in 1922 and ended up having 3 of its own missions during its brief, 15-year, life-span – the missions were in Lorado, Amherstdale and Earling, another small town along the Guyandotte River on the way to Man. No photographs of this Church have been found and it was thought that the parish used a company-built building but the archivist for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston believes otherwise; parishes had at least one resident priest meaning they either lived in a rectory or some other rented space in Lundale and having living space without actually having a Church is very uncommon.<sup>24</sup> However, information obtained from the Federal Census returns and City Directories indicates that the parish priest, Reverend JEREMIAH J. DAVERN actually lived in Courtland City, NY through the 1920s and early 1930s, and moved to Oswego, NY in the mid-1930s. They would take trips to Trenton, NJ to visit JOSEPH's half-sister ELIZABETH SZABO and half-brother BALINT SMITH who had recently moved there. On one of these visits they joined Branch 13 (Trenton) of the *Verhovay Segely Egylet* (Verhovay Aid or Fraternal Insurance Association, est 1886) which endeavored to preserve Hungarian culture in America. It was named in honor of the popular Hungarian Parliament member from the 1880s GYULA VERHOVAY (1849 – 1906). He was a strong supporter of workers and a member of the ultra-left Independence Party. They obtained life insurance, or actually obtained replacement policies, from this branch, on 1 January 1924, indicative of an earlier membership. That the policies were replacements indicates an earlier membership, probably in a Pennsylvania branch

but the company, the William Penn Association since 1955, has not been able to locate the original policies. They must have long-planned the move to Trenton as they stated on their application they were residents of the city even though that wouldn't become a reality for another four years.<sup>25</sup>

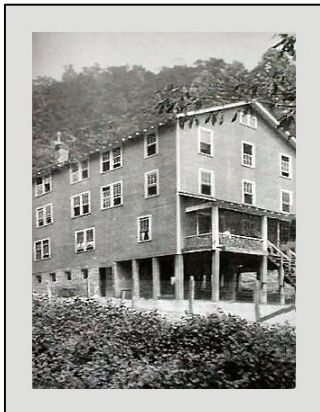
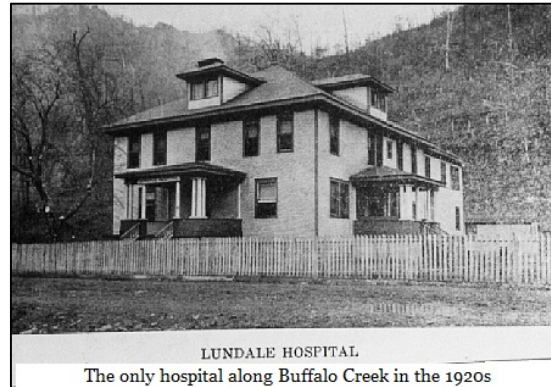
On 12 July 1924 NANA gave birth one last time – to twins: KATHRYN VIRGINIA and VALENTINE WILLIAM were born *around 8 pm in Braeholm* according to the *attending doctor*. However older sister MARY relates a different story: *when I got home from school at midday she was working in the kitchen. She told me there was a surprise for me on her bed and when I went to see – there were the twins!* Twins were quite rare and ANNA became very well known as a result. The *attending doctor*, C.A. MARTIN, lived in Amherstdale and must have had his office in Braeholm. The doctor didn't file the certificates until the last day of the year by which time he most likely forgot what he had been told. He probably didn't *attend* anything - NANA was quite capable at giving birth without interference! When the doctor got around to filling out the paperwork required to get a birth certificate (for that was all his attention was really required for) 5 ½ months later, he wrote down whatever time came to mind.

The SMITH'S became good friends with JOSEPH and ANNIE KOVICH of Lorado and spent many Sundays visiting their place at 19 Public Road in *Davey's Hollow*.<sup>26</sup> Their daughter MILLIE recalls JOSEPH and ANNA as being heavy set and fair skinned. Three or four families of Eastern European descent would converge on the Serbian KOVICH home. MILLIE and her sister SOPHIE described the area for me one day: all the towns were *closed* on Sunday with only the movie house open. You could not sew or wash clothes on Sunday either. There were no telephones so you always expected company. During the week you spent evenings getting ready for the next day, baking bread, cleaning and, if time allowed, sitting and relaxing on the porch. The week was scheduled so that everyone would wash clothes on Monday, iron on Tuesday, etc. The women and children would clean the house every day and then go to the store for food for that day. You would have your own vegetable garden to tend. On Saturday all the floors in the house would be scrubbed. *Canning* time would come around just after the vegetable garden had been harvested. Your friends would come around and help you can everything possible to get ready for the coming winter.

Grapes were grown in the area and a popular occasion was the *grape party* where bunches of grapes were hung about and anyone caught taking a grape would have to put some money into a pot, probably to cover the costs of the dance. After the dance JOSEPH would frequently gather the grapes and invite many people back to the house where an impromptu *grape stomping party* would take place.<sup>27</sup>

MARGARET relayed the following story as well. A laborer arrived one day from Ohio and boarded at the SMITH house. He was always talking about being *chased by someone*. About a month went by and MARGARET was cleaning the rooms when she discovered bloody handprints on the wall with streaks down leading to the body of the man who apparently had committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor. JOSEPH, JUNIOR was called back from Marshall College in Huntington to help clean the blood-stained room – a task the SMITH women and the SMITH men apparently, were not up to.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 1924 rain started and continued for two days. The little stream that ran behind the house started to swell. On Sunday, the 21<sup>st</sup>, a landslide started, and the slate hillside, along with mud, advanced on the house.<sup>28</sup> NANA grabbed the twins and placed them with the rest of the children in the care of neighbors. She returned to the house to help JOSEPH who was suffering from an acute *rheumatism* attack causing his feet and ankles to be very swollen and painful. He was carried out by some of the boarders, including GEORGE FINNIE, his favorite. ANNA went inside to retrieve JOSEPHS' new suit and diamond watch. She also managed to grab a couple fistfuls of script, which was lying on the bureau, as the rent from the boarders had not been deposited in the company bank. The mud on the first floor was about two feet deep by this time and she had trouble making her way back out. GEORGE FINNIE went into the falling house and carried her out. The foundation of the house had already started to shift and the whole structure was leaning forward as the slate and mud was up to the second story in the rear of the house. So much was pouring in through the shattered windows that a piano located on the landing at the top of the stairs was pushed down the staircase. The building collapsed forward with the second story separating from the first and being carried several yards by the advancing slide; finally coming to rest on an odd angle after spinning ninety degrees. The first

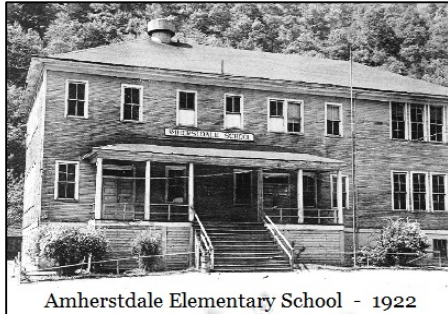


floor was buried underneath the slate and mud. It is believed that JOSEPH and ANNA'S personal belongings, such as their marriage record and his naturalization papers as well as any photographs, would have been in their bedroom. The company tried to dig out the house, probably in an effort to retrieve items such as those described; however their efforts were frustrated by the continually collapsing walls of slate and mud. Whatever was buried is

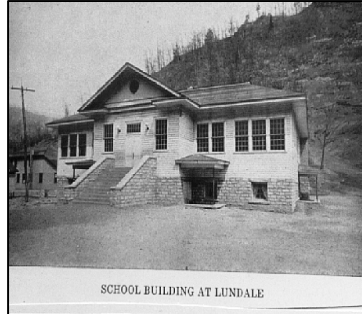
probably still there after all these years. GEORGE FINNIE then helped to rescue some of the animals from the barn before that collapsed. After the flood, they stayed in MR. FORD'S house *up the hill* then in the company *clubhouse*. The mining company built a house for them at *the other end* of town. It was a three-story building, under which was a parking area and wash area for the boarders. The first floor had two dining halls for fifteen to twenty people each, parlor, large kitchen and three bedrooms. The second and third floors each had ten bedrooms, five on each side of the hall, with a washroom at the end of the hall.<sup>29</sup> The house stood for many years, finally succumbing to a devastating flood in February 1972 that destroyed every structure in Becco, save



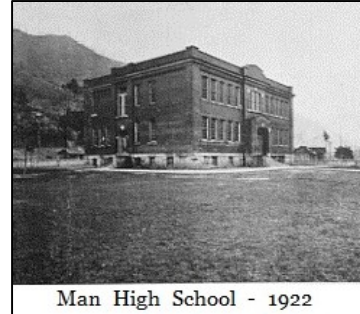




Amherstdale Elementary School - 1922



SCHOOL BUILDING AT LUNDALE



Man High School - 1922

one. This flood makes finding any personal belongings of the SMITH's that were buried in the 1924 flood much more difficult as all structures that could have been used to locate the site of that house were washed away. This became the *big house* in Becco as MILLIE KOVICH remembers.

The family had musical talent and enjoyed playing a variety of instruments: JOSEPH on the fiddle and xylophone, MARY on the steel guitar and JOSEPH, JUNIOR played saxophone. The children went to grade school in neighboring Amherstdale, junior high in Lundale, then about 3 miles away, and high school in Man, about 15 miles away. The school bus to Man left at 7:00 am. The SMITHS were quite well off and, in fact, had one of the first radios and gramophones in the area. They owned a *Pace* automobile, as yet unidentified, which was hit by a school bus. KATHRYN was hurt in the accident, receiving a cut on her face which left a scar.<sup>30</sup>

After a couple of years in the big house in Becco, JOSEPH and ANNA left the employ of *Buffalo Eagle* which meant leaving Becco. Becco's mine production had dropped by a full-third from 1925 to 1927 which may have fed into their decision to move. They moved to Lundale and into a smaller house which had room for ten to twelve boarders, relieving what must have been a back-breaking life for ANNA. GEORGE JONES, for unknown reasons, named the town Lundale when the *Amherst Coal Company* opened a mine there.<sup>31</sup> The town hosted two other mines as well: the *Logan County Coal Corporation* and the *Lundale Coal Company*. JOSEPH and ANNA worked for one of the three coal companies but which one is not known. And, in case of injury, Lundale had the only hospital along the course of Buffalo Creek.

And what of the tale that the KKK burned a cross in front of the SMITH house? The revived Knights of the Ku Klux Klan saw staggering membership rolls in the 1920s with over three million members! The resurrected KKK was not only for racial supremacy but religious supremacy as well as being "pro-American" which meant anti-immigrant in the hills of West Virginia. Roman Catholics, Jews and immigrants joined the ranks of the Negro as the number of despised and targeted groups increased. The border of Logan County was more than a political boundary – it also represented the boundary between coal mine owners and coal miners. Logan County was a union-free county while neighboring Mingo County was union and the KKK membership had a preponderance of miners, not owners in their ranks. The county border was the front in the union wars of the 1920s and company owners were quick to use any and all available tools to keep the unions out of Logan County. One way was to play on the fears of personal injury and the burning of crosses in front of those who were targets of the white, Protestant Knights of the KKK surely fanned the flames. So the tale is most certainly true in



some of its elements – there probably was a cross burned and it may very well have been in front of the SMITH’S house. Looking at photographs of the time spent in Becco by the SMITH’S it becomes readily apparent that the house they lived in from 1920 until the 1924 flood was too small and closed-in with neighbors to have a cross-burning in front of it. The *big house* however provided an ideal site for such an event – it was big, it was separate and it was identified with a Roman Catholic, immigrant, non-union family. Burning a cross here would send the

desired message to *all* of Becco’s non-union, Roman Catholic, immigrant families at once. Considering this, the cross-burning would most-likely have taken place while they lived in the *big house* in Becco in 1925 and ’26. Their Becco home before this time and their Lundale home afterwards did not present the same opportunity to convey a message to many people at the same time. It would have also played into their decision to abandon Becco for Lundale. Just *who* burned and cross and *what was the intended message* – mine owners with anti-union leanings or Klansmen with anti-Catholic ones – will probably never be known. The religious aspect allows for an amount of righteous indignation at such a repugnant act to be claimed by the family. However the truth is more likely to be related to JOSEPH’S non-union status of the closed-shop mine which is not only much less defensible story, it marks one out as being un-American.

While in West Virginia, JOSEPH also owned a small apartment house with a drugstore in Youngstown, Ohio. He supposedly fell behind in tax payments and, when sued over an accident that occurred on the premises, he turned over the title of the property as settlement. It is also thought that he owned property in Miami, FL, but this has not been verified.<sup>32</sup> These purchases may have reflected their desire to move away from the area.

JOSEPH was a man who knew the importance of his health. He went on yearly trips to Sarasota Springs in Florida and to the hot springs in Maryland. He, and his family, benefited from the care of a chiropractic doctor from early on, a trait passed on to his children. In fact, two of his grandsons are doctors of chiropractic. Between his visits to health spas and his recruiting trips he was frequently away from home which left the heavy burden of raising a large family and running the boarding houses to ANNA and the older children. This work load, plus JOSEPH’S increasing disability weighed heavy on their life and was important in their decision to seek a new life.

On a trip to Trenton, NJ, JOSEPH saw a three-story building on South Broad Street that he wanted to buy. It was built in 1912 on a 25 x 100’ lot. The structure was designed to house both a business at street level and living space on the second floor; the third floor was unfinished. On 2 February 1925 they bought the building and lot at 1243 South Broad Street at the intersection with Dayton Street from JOHN and SUSANNAH HEIDI. The HEIDI’S owned the property for just five months having bought the property from JOSEPH and HELEN KOZLOWSKI on 10 September

1924.<sup>33</sup> The building number was 1243 for a few years after being built but 1237 is the number used since the late 1920s. The description for both numbers is the same: *Lot 16 on Plan of Lots of Trenton Realty Company, filed 18 June 1904*. JOSEPH and ANNA assumed an \$8,000.00 five-year mortgage that the HEIDI'S had just given to MARY J. HALSEY on 31 January 1925 for 1243 South Broad Street.<sup>34</sup> Their children relate that they paid \$20,000.00 cash for the property but this is not reflected in existing records. JOSEPH'S half-sister, ERZSÉBET SCHMID, had moved to Trenton where she married MICHAEL SZABO in the same year.

EDWARD BLOCK, who had a small grocery store at 201 North Broad Street from 1920 to 1925, rented the whole building and ran a store from the front for 3 years starting in 1925. BLOCK'S PRODUCE MARKET was still open in 1928 at 1237 South Broad Street.<sup>35</sup> White City Market farther down on South Broad was owned by a BLOCK family in later years but it is not certain if this was the same family.

Despite owning property in Trenton, the SMITH'S continued to live in the Buffalo Creek area for 3 more years. Another flood washed away 3 houses in Becco on June 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> in 1928.<sup>36</sup> Possibly encouraged by this latest natural disaster, they left in early August 1928. From West Virginia they traveled for a month through Ohio and to Chicago before arriving in Trenton in early September.

Before leaving Buffalo Creek it should be mentioned that nothing remains as it was in the 1920s. A disaster occurred on 26 February 1972 which wiped out most of the towns. The *Buffalo Creek Coal Company* had built several impoundment ponds or dams above Saunders in the 1950s and 60s that were unstable. After a particularly long and hard rain, the largest impoundment dam collapsed sending 138 million gallons of black waste water cascaded down the narrow hollow, crashing on and obliterating Saunders first. Some towns, like Lorado, escaped with minimal damage as the surging current washed up one side of the valley and then crossed the valley floor to careen up the opposite side. In Becco only one building was left to stand as a mute witness to the devastation; at this late date it is almost impossible to reconstruct the town so as to be able to identify where their first house was and where, presumably, their personal effects remain entombed in slag and mud. At least 125 persons were dead, another 1,000 were injured and over 500 homes were demolished; property damage exceeded \$50 million.

JOSEPH and ANNA took over the market after the BLOCK family left. The building was large with a kitchen and formal dining room on the first floor behind the market. The parlor and bedrooms were on the second floor and there was a large attic on the third which was a great place to play in stormy weather. They obtained a \$5000.00 1-year mortgage, with 6% interest; from Trenton Trust Company on 13 November 1928 for 1237 South Broad Street. The 1925 mortgage for \$8,000.00 they assumed upon purchase came due at the end of January 1930. They refinanced it with a \$7000.00 plus 5.5% interest 1-year mortgage from the Trenton Savings Fund Society on 25 February 1930.<sup>37</sup> The address in the 1925 mortgage is 1243 South Broad Street which was the address stated in the 1930 mortgage as well.

When they moved in, as can be seen in the photograph, there was a large side porch and VALENTINE recalls many good times playing on it, and some bad, as when he kicked a soccer ball

through the front window around 1932! It would remain an open porch until 1937.

The grand opening of *SMITH'S NEW PRODUCE MARKET*, formerly *BLOCK'S*, at 1237 South Broad Street "Carrying a Complete Supply of Fresh Produce" was on 9 August 1928.<sup>38</sup> *SMITH'S PRODUCE MARKET* is found in the 1929 Trenton City Directory but not after that.<sup>39</sup> After two unsuccessful years, JOSEPH had no business sense when it came to reducing prices for older fruits and vegetables to get them out of the store before they rotted according to his daughter MARGARET, he looked for someone to rent the storefront while he entered radio sales. The 1930 Federal Census list JOSEPH as a *radio salesman* and states he owned 1237 South Broad Street whose value was \$16,800. Daughter ANNE is noted as being a saleslady in a notions store while son MICHAEL is a mail boy in a *wire mill* store.<sup>40</sup> MICHAEL BASSO ran BASSO'S PRODUCE MARKET at neighboring 1257 South Broad and nearby 905 South Broad Street in 1930, having moved from a store he had at 835 Cass Street in 1920.<sup>41</sup> The following year he is still at 1257 South Broad but the second store is at 900 rather than 905 South Broad. JOSEPH looked no further than a couple doors down the street for a tenant – in 1931 he rented the storefront to MICHAEL BASSO. In the 1932 Trenton City Directory JOSEPH'S residence is 1237 South Broad while Basso's Market is at the same address.<sup>42</sup> Basso's Market is found at this address for just the one year; whether this short stay was prompted by BASSO'S desire to move or JOSEPH'S anticipation and preparation for opening a bar once Prohibition was repealed. By the end of 1932 Basso's Market had moved a few blocks to Greenwood Avenue north of Olden Avenue. JOSEPH SMITH is found simply as a *salesman* in the city directories through 1933.

In anticipation of the repeal of Prohibition by the 21<sup>st</sup> amendment in 1933, JOSEPH took back the storefront and began the conversion of the space into a more familiar venture by converting the market into a bar which he named *The Dayton House Pub*. Within a few months of the repeal, the *Dayton House* was open for business after getting a temporary alcoholic beverage license issued by the *New Jersey State Beverage Commissioner* D. FREDERICK BURNETT. This first license was a temporary measure to allow for businesses to get licensed while the cities got their licensing boards up and running. The state license expired at midnight on 30 June 1934 and future licensing would come through the *Trenton Board of Alcoholic Beverage Control*. The *Board's* opening meeting, held in a crowded City Hall Council Chamber, was on 28 June 1934; one of their first orders was to adopt and impose a 250 limit on the number of licenses. This allowed for all 222 holders of the State license to get a *Board* license. JOSEPH was at that first meeting and he received city liquor license C-255 pending submission of two affidavits: (1) the Federal tax stamp was paid for and (2) that monthly reports to the State Tax Department were made for all purchases and sales of liquor.<sup>43</sup>

For a few years there were tables on the side porch for patrons. The 1934 city directory lists the *Dayton House* in the residential section under JOSEPH'S name while in 1935 the *Dayton House* appears in the business section under Beer, Wine and Liquor. In 1937 the side porch was enclosed to enlarge the downstairs living area.<sup>44</sup> Women were still not to be found frequenting bars so a LADIES ENTRANCE on the side allowed girlfriends and wives into a room behind the bar without the social stigma being attached to the woman for entering through the front door of a bar. It was still frowned on for a women (mostly by their husbands!) in the back to enter the bar

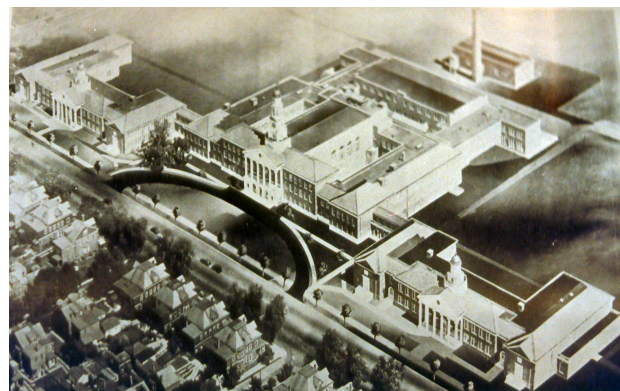
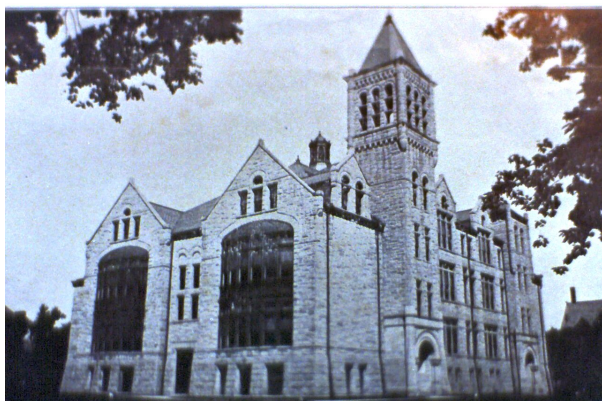


itself so the men could enjoy themselves without the worry of a tap-on-the-shoulder from the Missus. The listing remained the same over the years; as late as 1957 the directory lists ANNA SMITH as a widow of JOSEPH, at the *Dayton House* at 1237 South Broad Street. The 1948 directory inexplicably places VALENTINE at 1239 South Broad Street, an address that has never existed.<sup>45</sup> Due to JOSEPH's rheumatism, ANNA, her sons and son-in-laws, as well as her brother JOHN KUTARNIA frequently ran the bar. In 1936 the SMITH's first appear in the telephone directory with the number TR3-2015.<sup>46</sup>

## Education



The children attended Franklin Elementary School, on William Street near Liberty Street; Trenton Junior High School No. 4 (*above left & right*) a couple blocks away on Dayton Street; and Trenton Central High School. In 1928, the high school was the 27 year old second one at Chestnut Avenue and Tyler Street. The third high school was still under construction on Chambers Street between Hamilton and Greenwood Avenues and would open in 1930. (*below*)



Through the years, the SMITH's were close to MICHAEL and LUCY BASSO. This proved to be an unfortunate friendship in some respects, as JOSEPH and ANNA were co-defendants in at least two lawsuits involving property that they had some financial interest in, along with the





BASSOS. On 10 November 1933 a judgment was entered in the Court of Chancery against MICHAEL BASSO, MARIA LUCIA BASSO, Trenton Trust Company and JOSEPH SMITH, for a property at 425 Genesee Street. This single-family home was built in 1920 and was near Beatty Street was the BASSO home in the early 1930s. It was sold on 19 December 1933 at a Sheriff's sale to JOHN JESONSKI for \$100.00.<sup>47</sup> Another single-family row home at 334 Rusling Street was forfeited to the City of Trenton on 2 March 1937 for overdue taxes of \$388.11. There was a Chancery Court hearing on 16 February 1942 regarding this property

and the Final Decree, dated 13 April 1942 lists MICHAEL BASSO, LUCY BASSO, ANNA SMITH, individual and as trustee for JOSEPH J. SMITH, and Trenton Trust Company as defendants responsible for \$738.96 due to the City of Trenton.<sup>48</sup>

JOSEPH, seen in picture at right in uniform, was a member of the Hungarian-American pseudo-military *Order of Knights of Saint Stephen*. ISTVÁN I (c969 – 1038) is the acknowledged founder and first KING OF HUNGARY, in 1000 CE. Each group of *Knights* was affiliated with a Hungarian Catholic Church and assisted in many church activities as well as providing the parade with a nationalistic flare. August 20<sup>th</sup> is celebrated as Saint Stephen's Day in many places and remains a public holiday in Hungary. The Roman Catholic feast day was 2 September (16 August since 1969) but Trenton's Hungarian-American population celebrated with a parade and festival on 28 August, at least according to a Church member. The festival was held at *Saint Stephen the King (Hungarian) Roman Catholic Church* at 210 Genesee Street in the center of Trenton's Hungarian community. *Saint Stephen the King* opened in 1903 and was the main Hungarian National Church for Trenton.



ANNA was a member of *Saints Peter and Saint Paul Slavonic Roman Catholic Church* at 480 Second Street, just off of Cass Street. It opened in 1899 and was the first Slovak National Church in the area. The parish cemetery is on Cedar Lane. *Saint Michael's* at 1130 Brunswick Avenue, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Slovak church, opened in 1921. The building for *Saints Peter and Paul* was shuttered a few years ago when the congregation was amalgamated with two Polish churches – *Holy Cross* and *Saint Stanislaus* – to form *Divine Mercy Parish* in 2005. *Divine Mercy* uses the former *Holy Cross Church* at 201 Adeline Street.

In the 1940 Federal Census, taken in April, JOSEPH is a retail liquor proprietor, son MICHAEL is a wire mill salesman and MARGARET is a mail reader for the state unemployment compensation office.<sup>49</sup> JOSEPH died in Donnelly Memorial Hospital in Trenton just a few months after the census was taken. He was 58 when tuberculosis took his life at 1 am on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, 1940. He is interred at *Saint Peter and Saint Paul Slavonic Roman Catholic Cemetery* on Cedar Lane in Trenton, NJ. The Verhovay Association paid the \$1,000.00 policy from 1924 on JOSEPH to ANNA just two weeks after his death.

The Trenton Board of Commissioner's granted a transfer of saloon license held by late JOSEPH J SMITH to his widow MRS. ANNA K SMITH, administratrix of his estate on 9 September 1940.<sup>50</sup> A little over a year later ALFRED E DRISCOLL, the State alcoholic beverage control commissioner suspended the liquor license for thirty days starting on 23 October after ANNA *pled guilty to pouring one brand of liquor into a differently-labeled bottle.*<sup>51</sup>

In early 1941 ANNA purchased a second \$1,000.00 life insurance policy on herself from Verhovay, perhaps using the insurance proceeds from JOSEPH's policy. On 12 March 1944, ANNA applied to the Trenton Lodge of the Greek Catholic Union to change the beneficiaries of her 1919 \$1,000.00 insurance policy issued in Forest City; it would be equally split between her 9 children.<sup>52</sup> She applied for a Social Security number in 1952 giving her maiden name as GUTARNIA.<sup>53</sup> ANNA continued to operate the *Pub*, with her sons, until 1963. Just after midnight on Tuesday, 14 June 1955, KATHRYN spied a man making his way across the rooftops; she shouted for her brothers JOHN and VALENTINE, or "JACK" and "BILLY" – JACK must have been visiting from California and BILLY was tending bar – who took off after the suspicious man. The prowler dropped down to street level and sped away; police responded to a call and claim to have seen the man in the 1300 block of South Broad Street but failed to apprehend him. They described him as being 20 – 22 years old, 150 pounds and 6' 6" tall!<sup>54</sup> Over the years, winter storms had broken the large plate glass windows in the front of the *Pub* a number of times.<sup>55</sup> In June 1956, the building firm of Major & Temple replaced the large plate glass windows and doorway with a regular door and two small windows making the once light-filled place quite dark.<sup>56</sup> Modern Ironworks added fire escapes in August 1959 and some minor work was done in April 1961 by Major & Temple.<sup>57 58</sup>

BILLY ran the bar in the late 1950's with his brother-in-law PETE GURLAND. On 28 May 1959 the Trenton Board of Commissioner's approved the transfer of alcoholic beverage license #C-255 from ANNA K. SMITH to VAL. W. SMITH and PETER P. GURLAND as partners in the *Dayton House*.<sup>59</sup> When BILLY decided to leave the bar, ANNA decided to sell it. The building and lot at 1237 South Broad Street was sold on 20 May 1963 to FRANK and CLARAMAE KOVACS of Levittown, PA. A \$20,000 mortgage from the Old Borough Savings & Loan covered part of the cost, while a second mortgage to ANNA SMITH for \$6,000 plus 6% interest was recorded in July.<sup>60</sup> Perhaps the second mortgage was an "added" cost to transfer the liquor license. The Tax Assessor Department's records list the sale price as \$28,000.<sup>61</sup> The selling of the business caused MARGARET to feel slighted as her Mom refused to turn over the business to any daughter but would turn it over to a son-in-law, say PETE, if, *and only if*, they were a co-owner a son, say BILLY. There may have even been litigation or the threat of litigation used to try and get some money for the perceived financial loss. While BILLY paid no mind to his sister, ANNA may have paid off her daughter to keep the peace

ANNA continued to live above the *Pub* in the front apartment that MARGARET and PETE had built. In the early 1970s she fractured a hip which disabled her and necessitated her moving out. She died at 6 pm on 1 November 1978 from a myocardial infarction. She is also buried in *Saints Peter and Saint Paul Slavonic Roman Catholic Cemetery* in Trenton, NJ. The grave marker gives her year of birth as 1890; the suspect explanation is that it was cheaper to carve

1890 than 1889 and in 1940, it was imperative to keep costs low. Whatever the reason, ANNA was a year younger! The Verhovay Association, by now the William Penn Association, paid the claims for the two (1924 and 1941) \$1,000.00 policies on 4 December 1978 to the sole beneficiary, KATHRYN V. SPYCH. The status of the 1919 GCU policy has not yet been determined; nor has the existence of the NSS policy.

**Joseph Arthur Smith  
Joseph Ferreiro Smith  
Joseph John Smith  
Joseph Smith  
Joyce Elaine Smith**

In 1991 JOSEPH'S children and grandchildren had his name placed on the American Immigrant Wall of Honor at the Ellis Island Immigration Station

National Park to honor their ancestor and support the rehabilitation of the place that he first set foot on in this country.



The *Pub* remained open under FRANK KOVACS until he died around 2005. Attempts to sell the place for \$250,000 failed (gee, I wonder why?) and it was foreclosed on; the bank is asking \$49,000 for the dilapidated place! The structure was sold and the new owner started an extensive remodeling project which saw an expansion of the 3<sup>rd</sup>-floor attic and a different floor plan being adopted for the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, including the bar, at least.

Issue:

- 1) MARY SMITH: baptized at *Saint Anthony's Church* in Forest City on 9 September 1906, her sponsors were JOSEPH JURKO and MARY GALUSZKA.<sup>62</sup> MARY had to quit school at 14 years old, just after moving to West Virginia, and learn to drive so she could pick up her brothers and sisters from school. During one of the family trips to Trenton she entered, and won, a Verhovay Association pageant for the title Miss Hungarian Trenton while not even living in the state! In West Virginia it was uncommon for a woman of 20 to not be married and her anxious father wanted her to marry a Hungarian. MARY had been secretly "dating" her father's favorite boarder, GEORGE FINNIE (born 1897-99). She wanted to marry "the Scotchman" but her father was against the marriage. Finding out she was pregnant, MARY and GEORGE eloped and were married in Charlestown, WV on 28 May 1927. They lived near GEORGE's sister in Albany, NY, first at 63 Second Street in 1929. In 1936 GEORGE was at 64 Second Street while MARY was a cafeteria worker, living at 138 Dove Street. They are again together in 1940 at the latter address.<sup>63</sup> For a time this alienated MARY from her father but they reconciled, especially with the birth of their first grandchild. In 1964 they moved to Florida. GEORGE passed away 26 December 1971. He was cremated and his ashes were removed to Scotland. MARY returned to *Saints Peter and Paul Church* in Trenton to marry WILLIAM NEVILLE on Saint Valentine's Day in 1976 (14 February). They returned to Clearwater, FL to live together until WILLIAM died on 22 November 1985. He was cremated and MARY placed his ashes in the plot of her parents in Trenton. MARY moved near her

daughter in Placentia, CA for several years before passing away on 4 January 1997. She was cremated and her ashes were buried next to those of her second husband in *Saints Peter and Paul's Cemetery* in Trenton, N.J. in July 2000.



- a) MARGARET ELIZABETH VIRGINIA FINNIE: born 24 November 1927 (Albany, NY), married DOUGLAS STANLEY POWELL on 13 October 1951; died 16 January 2019, Placentia, CA.
  - i) DEBRA JEANNE POWELL: born 7 September 1952, Elmhurst, NY (on Long Island), married 11 April 1986 MALCOLM BROWN in Kona, HI; they lived in San Francisco, CA and Anchorage, AK. MALCOLM died from a heart attack in January 2006.
  - ii) VICTORIA LEE POWELL: born 4 October 1955, Glendale, Los Angeles County, CA, married on 20 August 1972 to JOHN LEE JACKSON, JUNIOR; lived in San Dimas, CA; VICTORIA died 10 December 2014.
    - (1) MICHAEL LEE JACKSON: born 31 March 1973, married 1 July 1994 LYNNE LAMERE in Riverside, CA.
      - (a) JOHN LEE JACKSON, III: born 24 October 1995, Loma Linda, CA.
      - (b) AMANDA DENISE JACKSON: born 14 May 1996.
    - (2) JAMES MICHAEL JACKSON: born 11 October 1988.
  - iii) RANDALL GEORGE POWELL: born 19 January 1957, died 23 January 1957, Glendale, Los Angeles Co, CA. Interred *San Fernando Mission Cemetery*, San Fernando, CA.<sup>64</sup>
- 2) JOSEPH SMITH, JUNIOR: was baptized at *Saint Anthony's Church* on 14 October 1907, having the same sponsors as MARY – JOSEPH JURKO and MARY GALUSZKA.<sup>65</sup> He graduated Mann High School in 1924 followed by Marshall College in Huntington, WV first, then Newark Technical School, now New Jersey Institute of Technology, in Newark, NJ where he lived with the RADACK sisters, friends of the KUTARNIA family. In 1935 he was living in Elizabeth, NJ. He married HELEN (PAT) VECSEY (born 17 June 1910, died 21 January 1971), daughter of JOSEPH and JULIANNA KANOCZ HORVATH VECSEY, on 12 June 1937. OMER and HELEN (SMITH) DUPRAS are thought to have been Best Man and Maid of Honor, respectively.

VECSEY FAMILY: JOSEPH VECSEY, living at 119 Cass Street, 44, died 25 September 1917 and was buried in *Riverview Cemetery* in Trenton (his obituary gave his name as JOSEPH VECHY). At this address in 1920 is JULIA VECSEY, 37, a widow working in a cigar factory. Living with her are a daughter SUSAN, 18 and son LEWIS, 16 – both born in Connecticut. (LEWIS was born 17 May 1904 and died 11 October 1971 in Miami, Dade County, Florida). Also in the house are children HELEN, 10; PAUL, 8; ELIZABETH, 5 (born 2 December 1914) and STEPHEN, 3 years, 4 months, all born in New Jersey.<sup>66</sup> JOSEPH and JULIA VECSEY are not found in the 1910 census.

HELEN and JOSEPH had two wedding ceremonies in South Trenton: the first in the rectory of *Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church* on Second Street just off of Cass and the second ceremony in the *Hungarian Reformed Church* at Grand Avenue and Beatty

Street. HELEN worked in a cigar factory like her mother and studied tailoring at the Trenton School of Industrial Arts. They lived at 119 Cass Street in Trenton, NJ in the house that HELEN grew up in. In 1940 Joseph was an engineer for United Construction and Pat was a secretary for the American Federation of Labor. Her younger brother STEPHEN VECSEY was living with them at the time.<sup>67</sup> JOSEPH worked for many years as a research chemist for John A. Roebling & Sons and later at Hercules Powder Company of Rocky Hill, NJ. He was an avid bowler, being active in Mercer County Holy Name League, NJ State Traveling League and the Groveville League. He was a trustee at *Saints Peter and Paul Church*. JOSEPH died on 21 February 1974 and is buried with his wife in *Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery*, Trenton.

- a) EILEEN PATRICIA SMITH: born 20 March 1941, Graduate of University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; chemistry professor at Trenton State College, Trenton, NJ. She died unexpectedly at her home on 26 August 2019. She is buried in *Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery* in Trenton.
  - b) KATHLEEN PATRICIA SMITH: born 24 April 1943, holds two Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, in biology and chemistry, and a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from Temple University Medical School; married JOHN WRIGHT in 1965, divorced 1974; married second ERICH BAUMEISTER on 14 July 1985, Boling Brook, IL, divorced. She lived with ERICH in Nidderau, near Frankfurt, Germany for many years before returning to the Chicago area in 2005.
- 3) ANNIE SMITH: her birth date is questionable. Her baptismal record at *Saint Anthony's Church*, which is dated 11 April 1909, gives her birth date as 9 April 1909 while her Social Security application lists 2 April 1909. Sponsors were JOSEPH JURKO and ANNA VARHOLA (*MOST LIKELY* ANNA WARHOLA who married JOSEPH SAXON on 16 May 1910).<sup>68</sup> She married FRANK TURNER (born 16 December 1904, England), son of GEORGE TURNER and MABEL WAIT, on 19 June 1938 at *Saints Peter and Paul Church*. They lived in Trenton at 280 Homecrest Avenue. FRANK was a tool & die maker for Thermoid, Inc. of Trenton. They belonged to the *Church of the Incarnation* where ANNIE was involved in the Altar Rosary Society. She was also a member of the Pennington Road Fire Company Auxiliary and several American Legion Posts. FRANK died on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January, 1966 when he suffered a heart attack while shoveling snow from the sidewalk in front of their home. ANNIE died on 4 January 1984 and is buried with her husband in Section T in *Saint Mary's Cemetery*, Trenton.<sup>69</sup>
- a) JANICE LOUISE TURNER: born 20 February 1941 (Trenton, NJ), married 14 October 1961 to ROBERT PETERSON (born 23 June 1939); living in Corbin City, NJ
    - i) DEBORAH MARIE PETERSON: born 27 January 1966, Trenton, married 13 July 1993 KENNETH R. CADE, live in Steelmantown, Cape May County, NJ.
      - (1) MICHAEL TYLER CADE: born 17 May 1993 (Atlantic City, NJ)
      - (2) CHARLES MATTHEW CADE: born 27 March 1995 (Somers Point, NJ)
    - ii) ROBERT JEROME PETERSON: born 21 October 1968, Trenton; married JENNIFER ASHLEY in Georgia on 29 November 2002. They live in New York where ROBERT works in a border patrol office.



- b) LANA MARIE TURNER: born 12 June 1945, married ALEXANDER THOMAS GRAY (born 2 November 1944) on 5 October 1968; living in Lawrenceville, NJ.
  - i) CHRISTOPHER THOMAS GRAY: born 12 November 1971, Trenton; studying at Penn State University.
  - ii) LYNN MARIE GRAY: born 4 April 1973, Trenton; married CURTIS PORCELLO on 20 April 1996, divorced March 2003; works for DelVal Agriculture, a division of Hoffman-LaRouche Pharmaceuticals in Doylestown, PA.
  - iii) STEPHANIE LAUREN GRAY: born 16 February 1979, Trenton; married FRANK BOSLEY in 2004. Divorced? Married KEVIN ZORN.
- (1) LUCAS GRAY ZORN: born 3 May 2017



- 4) HELEN SMITH: her birth certificate gives her birth date as 14 February 1912, while her baptismal record gives 16 February, and her Social Security application lists 15 February. *HELENA* was baptized at *Holy Trinity Slovak Roman Catholic Church* on Prospect Street in Simpson, PA on 18 February 1912, the daughter of *JOSEPHUS SMIT of Hossulaz, Europe* and *ANNA KUTERNIA of Forest City*.<sup>70</sup> Sponsors were MICHAEL LAZAR and MARIA BABAKA. The Church closed in 2004 and was consolidated with *Saint Michael the Archangel* (Polish) Church at 46 Midland Street in Simpson. In 2010 the *Holy Trinity Church* building was razed however Holy Trinity Hall remains open at 37 Prospect Street. In July 2011 *Saint Michael's* was consolidated with *Saint Rose of Lima* (Slovenian) Church at 6 North Church Street in Carbondale. HELEN apparently celebrated her birthday on Saint Valentine's Day each year. HELEN graduated from Trenton Central High School in 1931, the final class to graduate from "old" Trenton High at the intersection of Tyler and Chestnut Streets, next to Junior 2. She was a sports lover playing on both the hockey and basketball teams as well as remembered as "The female champion pugilist."<sup>71</sup> She married OMER DUPRAS (born 7 August 1913, MI) of French-Canadian descent; he was the son of OMER (1880-1944) and MARY DUPRAS (1875-1947), 326 Ellis Avenue. They married on 15 August 1937 at *Saints Peter & Paul Church*. REVEREND MICHAEL J CHURAK officiated; Maid-of-honor was her sister MARGARET, best-man was her brother MICHAEL; and a reception was held at her home. *Bride wore a white satin gown with tulle veil and carried a prayer book draped with orange blossoms; maid of honor wore a pale blue chiffon frock and matching picture hat and carried pink roses.*<sup>72</sup> They first lived with OMER's parents where they are found in 1940, OMER working in a machine shop and HELEN as a bookkeeper.<sup>73</sup> Besides his parents, two of OMER's older sisters lived there as well – ANTOINETTE (1910-1996) and GERTIE (GERTRUDE, 1907-1979); his parents and sisters are buried in *Saint Mary's Cemetery*, Hamilton Township, New Jersey. They were living on Woodlawn Avenue in Trenton in 1953 and OMER occasionally tended bar at the Dayton House. The family moved to Coral Gables, Florida where OMER worked for an airline company. HELEN passed away 25 September 1977. OMER lived in

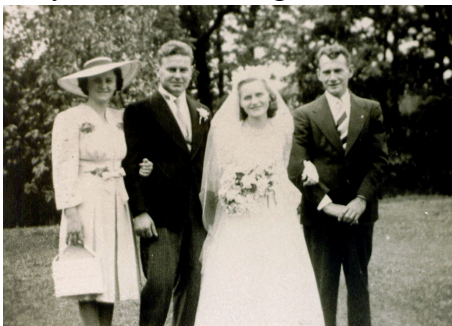
Boynton Beach, FL with daughter JACKIE until his death 12 September 1993.

- a) ROMAYNE DUPRAS: born 6 June 1940 (Trenton, NJ), married BENJAMIN DAVIS (born 25 March 1937) on 25 July 1964 in Coconut Grove, FL; live in Miami, FL.
    - i) KIMBERLY MISHAUN DAVIS: born 23 May 1967, married 25 July 1992, to STUART DELISSER, live in Coconut Grove, FL
      - (1) KATIE DELISSER
    - ii) CHRISTINA DIANE DAVIS: born 5 August 1971, married 10 June 1995, DENNIS FINE, Coconut Grove, FL
  - b) BARBARA DUPRAS: born 19 March 1942 (Trenton, NJ), married 8 June 1963 RICHARD MATUSZEWSKI (born 9 June 1939); lived in Washington Crossing, PA. After RICHARD died, BARBARA moved to The Villages, Florida near her sister COLETTE in 2021 and died there on 1 November 2021.
  - c) COLETTE DUPRAS: born 9 October 1944 (Trenton, NJ), married 1 July 1967 JAMES F. WHELAN (born 25 June 1944) at Saint Timothy Roman Catholic Church, 5400 Southwest 102<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Miami, Florida; lived in Miami before retiring to The Villages, FL in the 2010s.
    - i) DAWN MARIE WHELAN: born 16 March 1968 (Miami, FL), lived in Manhattan Beach, CA circa 2000; married JOHN CRAWFORD, living in NY.
      - (1) MADELINE RILEY CRAWFORD: born May 23, 2004 in New York City
      - (2) KYLE CRAWFORD: born 2002
    - ii) JAMES PATRICK *JP* WHELAN: born 29 October 1970 (29 Palms, Ca.), married CHELLI ?, NC.
      - (1) LINDSEY DAWN WHELAN: born 1 June 2004, Hickory, NC
      - (2) MAGGIE ISABEL WHELAN: born 1 June 2004, Hickory, NC
    - iii) KEVIN FRANCIS WHELAN: born 23 October 1976 (Miami, FL), student at Florida International University, Miami. Engaged to ZENIA to be married June 2005.
  - d) JEANNETTE *JACKIE* ELIZABETH DUPRAS: born 6 July 1948 (Trenton, NJ); lived in Miami, FL for many years before moving to Boynton Beach to care for her father. After his death she bought her own house in that town where she now resides.
- 5) MICHAEL SMITH: his birth record filed on 6 November 1913 lists the 1<sup>st</sup> of November as his date of birth, though MICHAEL celebrated it on November 3rd.<sup>74</sup> It was thought at one time that the 3rd was the date of his baptism but this is not the case either. He was baptized at *Saint Michael's Slovak Roman Catholic Church* in Jessup on 9 November 1913.<sup>75</sup> The Church register lists his date of birth as 3 November 1913. His sponsors were MICHAEL LAZAR (same as for HELEN) and MARY WARHOLA. That Church closed in July 2010 and the congregation was merged with *Queen of Angels Parish* at 605 Church Street in Jessup. The building still serves a religious purpose: it is a “worship site” for the Parish. During the



depression years he worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps. As a “volunteer,” a large part of his pay went to his parents and he spent his time helping to protect the nation’s natural resources as well as receiving an education during “leisure” time. He enjoyed going to the dances at *Holy Angel’s Catholic Church* where he first met MARY MISLAN (born 16 October 1914) his future wife. The MISLAN family lived on Virginia Avenue, not far from the Dayton House Pub. Their engagement was announced on 15 June 1941.<sup>76</sup> They were married on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July in 1941 at *Saints Peter and Paul’s Catholic Church*. They honeymooned in Hyannis, MA. They first lived on Virginia Avenue in Trenton and then moved to 9

Meredith Road in suburban Hamilton Township during October 1942. He was in the US Army Air Force during World War II, stationed in Tennessee. MARY worked in the office of



General Motors Corporation during the war and for the Selective Service System until retiring in 1976. She received the Meritorious Service Award from PRESIDENT GERALD FORD in 1974. After the war, MIKE worked as a machinist at the DeLaval Company. The family was affiliated *Saint Raphael’s Catholic Church*. MICHAEL died 22 April 1976 and is buried in *Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery*, Trenton. MARY moved to Chandler, AZ in 1986, spending much of her time visiting with her children. As her health deteriorated she moved to Seattle, WA in 2004 to be near two of her children. She passed away at the home of her daughter TERRI in Seattle on 9 May 2005. She was buried next to her husband after church services at *Saint Raphael’s Church* on 24 May 2005.

- a) JOAN DIANE SMITH: born 5 October 1942 (Trenton, NJ). *DIANE* married WILLIAM FRANCIS FINNEGAN on 11 July 1964 in Trenton, NJ; they moved to California shortly thereafter, followed by New York and Tennessee and currently (2004) reside in Anchorage, AK.

- i) SHANNON MARYANNE FINNEGAN: born 7 April 1965 (Newport Beach, CA), attorney, married MICHAEL BURCHMORE on 14 October 1995; they live in San Francisco, CA.

#### MISLAN FAMILY

JOHN MISLAN: born 1888 in the Czech portion of the Hungarian Empire, immigrated to the US in 1905. In 1909-10 he married SUSANNE SKEIRO (born 1894, Jamesburg, Middlesex Co, NJ). By 1930 they owned a home at 106 Virginia Avenue in Trenton’s 4<sup>th</sup> ward. JOHN worked in a wire mill while SUSAN worked in a factory making golf bags. SUSAN died on 15 Sep 1963 in Trenton and JOHN on 25 Jan 1985 in Bayville, Ocean Co., NJ; both buried in Ss. *Peter & Paul Cem*, Trenton.

- 1) ANNA MISLAN: born 1913, stenographer in 1930; married name ALLERTON.
- 2) MARY MISLAN: born 16 October 1914, graduated Trenton Central High School in 1932; married MICHAEL J. SMITH on 5 July 1941.
- 3) MARGARET MISLAN: born 18 May 1917; married GRAHAM WITSCHIEF; moved to Newburgh, Orango Co, NY. GRAHAM died 1983 and Margaret on 13 Apr 2005, Newburgh; both entombed there in *Cedar Hill Mausoleum*.
- 4) ELIZABETH MISLAN: born 1919., died 7 Dec 1920, Trenton; bur Ss. *Peter & Paul Cem*
- 5) JOHN MISLAN: born 9 Feb 1922; lived in Toledo, OH with wife RUTH; died 18 Aug 2007; bur *Resurrection Cem*, Toledo.
- 6) JOSEPH D. MISLAN: born 14 May 1925; lived with wife CAROL in Lawrenceville, NJ; died 5 May 2015, Lawrenceville; buried Ss. *Peter & Paul Cem*.

1930 US Census, Mercer County, NJ; Trenton, 4<sup>th</sup> ward, block 553; 8 April 1930; ED 51, sheet 7A, lines 31-37; roll 1364, p 129.

“Mary Mislan Smith,” Find-A-Grave;

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/191834793/mary-smith>

- (1) TESS BURCHMORE
  - (2) TARA BURCHMORE
  - ii) CYNTHIA DIANE FINNEGAN: born 19 January 1967 (Camp LeJeune, CA).
  - iii) KARA SUZANNE FINNEGAN: born 1 April 1968 (Port Jefferson, NY), Masters in education, San Francisco, CA.
  - iv) WILLIAM MICHAEL FINNEGAN: born 12 August 1977 (Memphis, TN)
  - b) DAVID MICHAEL SMITH: born 11 September 1946 (Trenton, NJ), married LENELLE HOWE (born 18 June 1944, Terre Haute, Indiana) on 25 November 1972; DAVID works as Marketing Strategy Manager for Mazda and Jaguar and LENELLE works as a magazine editor, they lived in Michigan before settling in Los Altos, CA.
    - i) KATHERINE ALLISON SMITH: born 31 January 1979 (Pontiac, MI), sports interests include cross-country skiing and she plays the bassoon.
    - ii) DAVID MICHAEL SMITH, JUNIOR: born 16 September 1982 (Pontiac, MI), school sports include cross-country, swimming and track.
  - c) THERESA (TERRI) MARIE SMITH: born 31 January 1955 (Trenton, NJ); TERRI is a nurse in Seattle, WA.
  - d) MICHAEL JOSEPH SMITH, JUNIOR: born 22 August 1956 (Trenton, NJ), married (SHARON) CAMILLE HARBECK on 10 July 1982 in Birmingham, MI.; lived in Edmonds, WA and Winter Park, FL. MICHAEL is an attorney.
    - i) DYLAN MOORE SMITH: born 14 August 1988 (Washington, DC)
    - ii) ALEXANDRA CAMILLE SMITH: born 25 October (1992 *can't be right*; Edmonds, WA)
- [NOTE: there are 5 great-grandchildren as of May 2005]
- 6) MARGARET SMITH: recalls dating JOHNNY HATFIELD (of the infamous HATFIELD-MCCOY feud) while in WV After their break up, MARGARET'S father had to have a restraining order placed against JOHNNY so he would leave MARGARET alone. That this may be true is supported by the move of WILLIAM ANDERSON "DEVIL ANSE" HATFIELD (1839 - 1921) from Tug Valley on the Kentucky border. In the 1890s he settled near the town of Sarah Ann on Main Island Creek, a tributary flowing into the Guyandotte River at Logan in Logan County. Buffalo Creek flows into the same river a few miles away at Man with descendants still found in the area.
- She graduated Trenton Central High School in 1935. She played both speedball and basketball while in

#### XAVIER CUGOT

Born 1 January 1900 in Gerona, Spain, the family emigrated to Havana, Cuba around 1905. At just 12 years old, XAVIER became first violinist of the *Teatro Nacional* in Havana. XAVIER moved to the US in 1918 where he became the house-band leader at the Waldorf Astoria in New York in the Roaring 20s. He popularized the Latin sound, and dance, known as the *rumba*.

His lead singer during the 50s was his third wife, **ABBE LANE**. She was born in Brooklyn, NY on 14 December 1932. Considered by many a great singer, ABBE would go on to star in several movies and television shows in the 1960s and 70s, after divorcing XAVIER.

XAVIER groomed another "bombshell" singer for his band, and his home, and **CHARO** became wife number four.

After suffering a debilitating stroke in 1971 he retired and moved to Barcelona, Spain, where he died on 27 October 1990

high school.<sup>77</sup> She had several boyfriends in Trenton, as she states: *One for Monday, one for Tuesday, one for Wednesday and one for Thursday. Friday was my own day and then I would alternate on Saturday and Sunday.* Her favorite was PETER PAUL GURLAVICH (also known as PETER JURGLELEWICZ). He was born on 29 April 1913 in Mount Carmel, PA. His parents, DUFFY and BERTHA GURLAVICH, moved to Trenton where PETE is found with his older sister MARTHA and older brother HENRY at 67 Houghton Avenue in 1930. PETE would save up his money from managing the A & P Grocery store in Trenton and take MARGARET out to Sunday breakfast to a restaurant that had linen napkins and tablecloths; nothing was too good for his intended wife. Their engagement announcement appeared in local newspapers on 8 June 1941.<sup>78</sup> A bridal shower with fifty-nine guests was held in early August at the Pub.<sup>79</sup> They were married on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 1941 by REVEREND MICHAEL J CHURAK at *Saints Peter and Paul Church*. Their wedding announcement states that MARGARET “was given away by her brother JOSEPH, maid-of-honor was sister KATHRYN. Ushers were brothers WILLIAM and JACK; best-man was JACK MAGENNIS. Reception at Fisher’s Tea Room, honeymoon thru southern states, Miami Beach and Havana, Cuba; will reside at 1237 S Broad.”<sup>80</sup> MARGARET recalls being on Biscayne Boulevard and telling PETE that she wanted them to retire to Florida. While there they took a plane to Havana and stayed in a hotel just across from the Capitol building. The first night was marred by political unrest at the Capitol of President General FULGENCIO BATTISTA. MARGARET and PETE were forced to spend their first day there inside the hotel as a curfew had been imposed. Order was restored and they spent two more nights traveling around Havana and hitting all the hot spots for dancing including one where XAVIER CUGOT and his band played, including his then-wife ABBE LANE. His ever-present Chihuahuas’ were also in attendance! Within a few months, PRESIDENT BATTISTA would lose the election to GRAN SAN MARTIN and would retire in exile to Daytona Beach, FL until his return to power through a military coup in 1952.

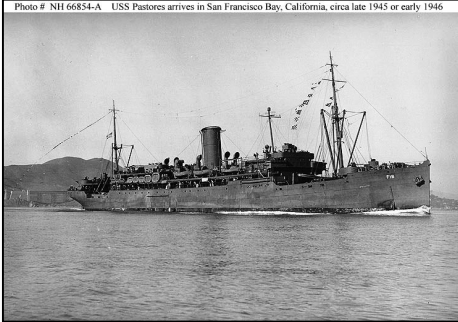
Upon their return to Trenton, they began to remodel the upstairs of the pub, creating a two bedroom apartment over the bar out of the former parlor. The (Trenton) *Sunday Times Advertiser* of 26 September 1943 carried the following:

*PETER GURLAVICH entered Navy on 26 November 1942 and is currently at naval supply depot in Trinidad. MARGARET sworn in as a private in the US Marine Corps Women’s Reserve on 31 August 1943. Her basic training was at Camp Lejeune, New River, NC and she worked in Washington, DC; graduate of THS and Rider College, employed by NJ State Unemployment Compensation Commission. She has three brothers in the service: LIEUTENANT JOHN J SMITH, bombardier in army air force, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (PFC) MICHAEL J SMITH, ordnance division and PRIVATE V WILLIAM SMITH, signal corps. PETER, son of BERTHA, 103 Houghton Avenue, received boot training at Bainbridge, MD; promoted to second-class petty officer on 1 September; was manager of A&P; has one brother, PRIVATE HENRY GURLAVICH, in army.*<sup>81</sup>

MARGARET was attached to the Eastern Procurement Division Headquarters at 1700 Sansom Street, a couple blocks northeast of Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia by October 1943. She was stationed at the Second Headquarters Battalion at Henderson Hall across the



street from the southern edge of Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia (*right*<sup>82</sup>) between January 1944 and April 1945 after which she was stationed in Bethesda, Maryland. Henderson Hall remains in use as a USMC facility. She was promoted to sergeant before she left the



Marines on 7 August 1945 and PETE was a Petty Officer

First Class in the US Navy from 24 November 1943 to 29 September 1945. He sailed from Norfolk, Virginia on 23 March 1943 aboard the *USS Pastores* (AF-16) and was aboard the *USS Houston* (CL-81) on 2 February 1944 from Trinidad.

They decided to change their surname to GURLAND, filing for a change in the Court of Common Pleas on 1 March 1946.<sup>83</sup>

They lived in Trenton most of their lives. MARGARET worked for the NJ State Department of Transportation and was responsible for verifying the amounts paid to subcontractors actually went to the workers. MARGARET and PETE retired to Lantana, FL

where they lived until 1995 when they relocated to Fresno, CA. PETE died there 12 July 1995, inurnment in *Arlington Cemetery*, VA. Both MARGARET and PETE were honored for their military service in the Court of Honor at Fresno (CA) City College in 1996. MARGARET married second ANGELO FALCO, of Fresno in August 2001. ANGELO died there in June 2002. MARGARET died 18 January 2012 in Fresno, CA. She was cremated and entombed with her first husband.

- a) PAUL WAYNE GURLAND: born 4 May 1946 (Trenton, NJ). PAUL married on 22 March 1977 to DIANN KAILEY (born 22 November 1950), Trenton, NJ, divorced; PAUL worked for NJ Department of Transportation; lives in Yardville, NJ at his parents former home.
- b) GERMAYNE GURLAND: born 20 December 1948 (Trenton, NJ). *GERRE*, an accomplished swimmer, she was qualifying to be on the US Olympic Swim Team for the 1968 games when she decided to marry, on 27 December 1969 to ROBERT PIVAK (Trenton), and gave up competing; they divorced in 1972. She lived in NJ, Oklahoma and California over the next seven years. Her second marriage, on 5 May 1979 to DOUGLAS JONES took place in Fresno, CA where they lived until 2008. They retired to Santa Cruz, CA and Shaver Lake, CA in Fresno County in 2008 and moved to Boulder, Colorado in 2012.
  - i) EMILY ALYSSA JONES: born 26 February 1981 (Fresno, CA) *EM* married ? BOYD and lives in Denver, CO.
    - (1) AUTUMN BOYD: born December 2010, Denver, CO
    - ii) ELIOT DOUGLAS GURLAND-JONES: born 28 February 1983 (Fresno, CA) *EL*.

c) FAITH GURLAND: born 8 October 1951 (Trenton, NJ); FAITH married (1) JOSEPH ADAMEK on 12 June 1976 in Trenton; divorced on 19 March 1979. She married (2) STEPHEN JOHN CHARLES (born San Diego), on 30 August 1992 in Clovis, Fresno County, CA; divorced. FAITH received an M.A. in Special Education from California State University at Fresno on 24 May 1997. FAITH stayed in Fresno until 2017 after which she moved back to Trenton.

- 7) JOHN SMITH:<sup>84</sup> “JACK,” graduated Trenton Central High School in 1938. While in school he was on the basketball team. He was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the US Army Air Force’s 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 461<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group, 764<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron in WW II. He was stationed in southern Italy and made 47 airborne missions (according to *Sweet Pea* PILOT ED TRENNER) into German territory, including destroying the Hermann Goering bomb works near Budapest. He was the bombardier on the B-24 “Super Fortress” bomber *Sweet Pea* (#18). The ship was heavily damaged during a mission on 25 July 1944 to Linz, Austria but managed to make it back to Toretto Airfield (Italy) and landed without flaps, using parachutes as brakes and both tires shot out. Ironically, JOHN never liked to fly! His air force training was at Hammer Field near Fresno, CA where he met his future wife, MARYJANE LAWLESS (born 18 March 1926). Their engagement announced in the *Trenton Sunday Times* on 10 September 1944:



*MISS MARY JANE LAWLESS, sister of LIEUTENANT AR LAWLESS of Fresno, now stationed in FL, to LIEUTENANT JOHN J SMITH, son of ANNA SMITH. MARY JANE graduated from Fresno High School and the Portland (OR) Business School. JACK attended college at Wake Forest, NC and graduated from the Bombardier School, Big Spring, TX. He has recently completed 50 missions and is scheduled to return home soon with the wedding soon to follow.*<sup>85</sup>

They were married on 16 September 1944 at *Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church* in Trenton, NJ. Best Man was the navigator from the *Sweet Pea*, AL MARKOVITCH. They lived in Trenton until 1949. JOHN wanted to be an educator graduating from Trenton State Teacher’s College, now the College of New Jersey at Trenton. The prospects in the Fresno area were bright and MARYJANE missed her family so they moved to the area, first to Selma by the end of 1949 then Fresno a few years later. In 1995 JACK was honored for his military service in the Court of Honor at Fresno City College with special mention of his 32 years as administrator and teacher in Fresno County Unified School District. JACK died in Fresno on 1 October 2009 with MARYJANE remaining in Fresno until she died of congestive heart failure on 8 February 2011.<sup>86</sup> Both buried at *Belmont Memorial Park*.

- a) BEVERLEE JILL SMITH: born 10 October 1945 (Trenton, NJ). Known as *JILL*, she married 14 February 1981 to DONALD RAYMOND HARMON (born 14 July 1947); Fresno, CA. They

first lived in San Luis Obispo, California before returning to Fresno. JILL was a counselor at Fresno City College from 1985 to her retirement circa 2014 and DON taught industrial arts/art at Bullard High School. JILL said of DON: *[he] was admired for his vast skills and talents; some of which included: teacher, fireman/paramedic, safety engineer, adventurer, Sierra horse packer/fisherman and sailor. For 30 years Don was a member of the National Ski Patrol and was awarded a prestigious award for outstanding service.* DON passed away in Fresno on 27 October 2020. DON has a son who they raised as their own:

- i) DAVID GARY HARMON: born 10 July 1976 (Fresno, CA). Studied mechanical engineering at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA in the mid-1990s. Married JENNIFER CELESTE PERACCHI circa 2010. Lived in San Luis Obispo and Fresno, California.
    - (1) OLIVIA ROSE HARMON
    - (2) STEPHANI HARMON: born 11 November 2014.
  - b) JUDITH ANN SMITH: born 6 November 1946 (Trenton, NJ). *JUDY* married 20 December 1975 to DAVID HAMILTON (born 14 June 1944), divorced; lives in Fresno, CA.
    - i) TIMOTHY DAVID HAMILTON: born 29 April 1976
      - (1) SERENA HAMILTON
      - (2) EVELYN HAMILTON
    - ii) KIMBERLY ANN HAMILTON : born 14 May 1979
  - c) BONNIE JOEL SMITH: born 14 October 1947 (Trenton, NJ). BONNIE married 6 April 1968 to HENRY (HANK) NEILL ROGERS (born 12 November 1943); Spartanburg, SC
    - i) SEAN RICHARD ROGERS: born. 23 September 1969, Philippine Islands; married 10 October 1992 to GEENA MARIE GREEN (born 13 November 1969), in Spartanburg, SC.
      - (1) ETHAN ROGERS
      - (2) ELI ROGERS
    - ii) SHANE WILLIAM ROGERS: born 27 July 1973, Spartanburg, SC; married 13 May 1995 to MONICA DAWN TRUESDALE (b.14 Sept. 1973), Spartanburg, SC.
      - (1) KAYLIN ROGERS
      - (2) KENDYL ROGERS
  - d) BETSY JOAN SMITH: born 26 June 1951 (Selma, CA). BETSY married JIM TOOTHAKER (born 31 March 1947) on 29 May 1992 in San Diego, San Diego County, CA. They live in the Kensington section of San Diego.
  - e) JOHN SCOTT SMITH: born 9 April 1953 (Selma, CA). *SCOTTY* married CYNTHIA K. GRETCH in August 1985; divorced in early 1990s; lives in Fresno with daughters.
    - i) KELLY KRYSTLE SMITH: born 6 November 1986 (Fresno, CA)
    - ii) LINDSAY MARIE SMITH: born 21 February 1989 (Fresno, CA)
- 8) KATHRYN VIRGINIA SMITH: was baptized by REVEREND JEREMIAH R. DAVERN on 2 August 1924 at *Saint Michael's Roman Catholic Church* in Lundale, WV. Sponsors of her baptism were JOSEPH and MARY REBICH.<sup>87</sup> Her First Holy Communion was on 13 May 1934, and

Confirmation on 5 December 1935, both received at *Saints Peter and Paul Church* in Trenton. She attended Franklin Elementary, Trenton's Junior 4 and Trenton Central High School, graduating in 1942. KATHRYN worked for the Catholic Archdiocese of Trenton for many years. She married BRONISLAW "BRUNO" LEONARD SPYCH, JUNIOR (born 17 June 1920), son of BRONISLAW and ROSALIE SPYCH of 517 North Olden Avenue, near the Clinton Avenue intersection in East Trenton, where they lived and ran a cobbler shop.<sup>88</sup> BRUNO had an older sister HELEN, a twin brother WILLIAM and a younger brother EDWARD (Trenton High Class of '41). BRUNO graduated Trenton Central High School in 1938) on 10 July 1965. BRUNO was in the 349<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the US Army during WW II. He worked for DeLaval Turbine Company for 45 years. He died at home on 15 February 2003. Interred in *North Crosswicks Cemetery*, Crosswicks, NJ. KATHRYN died in Bordentown, NJ on 24 November 2010, interred with husband. An obituary was published in *The (Trenton) Times* on 30 November 2010.

- a) DAVID MICHAEL SPYCH: born 26 April 1968 (Trenton, NJ), graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology, NY; lives in Atlanta, GA; married 2 July 2006 CHRISTINA ? in Napa Valley, CA.
- i) ELLA KATHRYN SPYCH: born 5 December 2009.

- 9) VALENTINE WILLIAM SMITH:<sup>89</sup> was named after his uncle, BALINT SCHMID, the name being the Hungarian equivalent of VALENTINE. BALINT had been named for his own grandfather; resulting in a continuance of the Eastern European tradition of honoring your forebears, with VALENTINE carrying the name of his great-grandfather. He was called "BILLY" throughout his early life, though "VAL" would become more popular in later years. This sometimes led to confusion such as when his sister would say to his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife "BILLY did such-and-such" and she had no clue who this "BILLY" person was! He was baptized by REVEREND JEREMIAH R. DAVERN on 2 August 1924 at *Saint Michael's Roman Catholic Church* in Lundale, WV where his sponsors were ANDREW and MARY MENKO.<sup>90</sup> His First Holy Communion was on 13 May 1934, and Confirmation on 5 December 1935, both received at *Saints Peter and Paul Church* in Trenton. He attended Franklin Elementary School, Trenton Junior High School #4 and Trenton Central High School. While in high school he was a member of the Historical Society, Hall Patrol, Academic Clinician, and Service Corps.<sup>91</sup> He spent the summers of 1940 and 1941 working in a food stand on the boardwalk in Seaside Heights, NJ.<sup>92</sup> He graduated from high school in June 1942. Upon graduation he started working for Fleetwings Aircraft in Bristol, PA; followed shortly by the Eastern Aircraft division of General Motors Corporation in Trenton. As the Avenger torpedo bombers rolled off the retooled assembly line, they would be taxied to Skillman (Mercer County) Airport for test flights. The first Avenger built by GM flew there on 11 November 1942. There, working under



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the supervision of United States Navy Inspectors, he and four subordinates, inspected airplanes coming off the assembly line. His education did not lag either for he completed two training courses as a Radio Technician in 1943, one in April and the second in August, at Rutgers College Extension in Trenton. His college record states that he was employed as an inspector for the United States Navy. As for sports, he was an avid roller skater and was on a



Trenton team for a while; he earned the nickname “*Dart*” for his prowess in that sport; he was an avid tennis player and bowler which he taught to all of his children.

He enlisted in the United States Army on 14 December 1942 at Camden, received a deferment to complete two college courses and entered into active service on 4 September 1943 less than a month after finishing at Rutgers.<sup>93</sup> Basic training was done at Camp Crowder in Joplin, MO. He

returned to New Jersey in November 1943 to attend the Signal Corps School at Fort Monmouth for fourteen weeks, achieving the designation Central Office Repairman. He was assigned to Company B of the 3119<sup>th</sup> Signal Service Battalion, landing at Camp Beale in Pittsburg, California during March 1944. He left for the South Pacific on 5 April 1944, arriving 15 days later, serving in New Caledonia, Fiji and Tinian. He was a teletype mechanic becoming *Technician, 4th Class*. On 20 January 1945 he qualified to operate a carbine and a couple of photographs of Valentine show him holding one.

The entire B Company was assigned to, and comprised, the 3910<sup>th</sup> Signal Service Company when it was activated during February 1945. On 14 March 1945 the 3910<sup>th</sup> sailed from New Caledonia on the U.S.S. *Sabik*, arriving at Tinian in the Marianas Islands on 30 March 1945.<sup>94</sup>

Tinian was where the *Enola Gay* took off from. Several hours before dawn on 6 August 1945 the B-29 lifted off the ground carrying the 9,700-pound bomb that would devastate Hiroshima, some 1,700 miles away, at 8:15 am. The 3910<sup>th</sup> was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for unspecified outstanding performance between 30 March and 3



October 1945. It is thought the activity or activities performed may have been done in connection with the *Enola Gay*. The 3910<sup>th</sup> had been a topic of discussion within the United States War Department since mid-1943.

The 3910<sup>th</sup> was attached to the 3117<sup>th</sup> Signal Service Battalion on 4 October 1945. VALENTINE left the South Pacific on 13 February 1946, arriving on the west coast 11 days later. He was awarded a Good Conduct Medal and received the

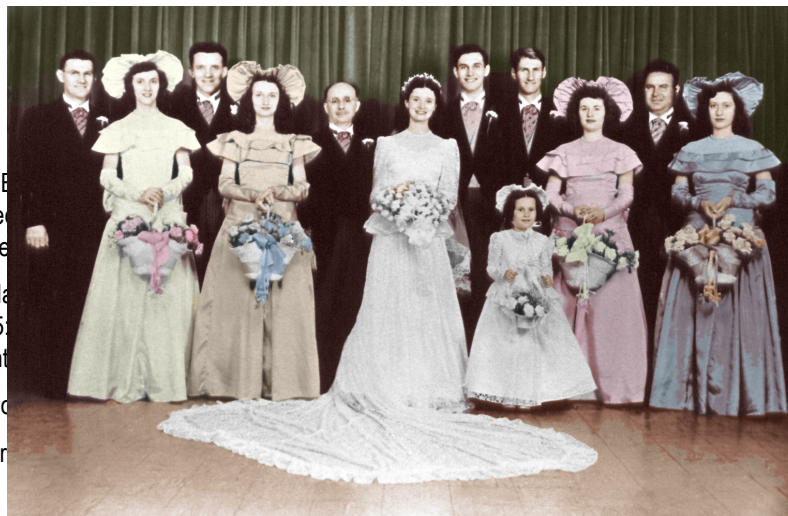


World War II Victory Medal and the Asiatic Pacific Service Medal in addition to the award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation.<sup>95</sup> The 3910<sup>th</sup> was detached from the 3117<sup>th</sup> on 10 March 1946 and inactivated on 19 April 1946 at Tinian. The 3910<sup>th</sup> would go through some changes: the 303<sup>rd</sup> Signal Radio Intelligence Company in 1950, the 306<sup>th</sup> Communication Reconnaissance Battalion in 1951 and finally the 306<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion in 1990. The unit was decommissioned at the end of 2005.

In 1998 VALENTINE'S WWII service was honored by being entered in the Registry of Remembrances of the National World War II Monument. That monument was completed and opened to the public in Washington, DC in May 2004. A more detailed account of his military service can be found in the 2012 book *The First World War, The Sequel* by this author.



After the war he returned to Trenton where he worked at the Dayton House before attending Trenton Junior College majoring in electrical engineering. He met his future wife in the summer of 1946 when his friend, JOHN NABINGER, asked him to double-date with DOROTHY and MARIE MATELENA. While sitting on the living room couch, ALBERTA came up from the basement where she had been washing the family dog. Shortly thereafter VALENTINE asked her out on a date, despite her initial disheveled and damp appearance.<sup>96</sup> ALBERTA (born 4 February 1929, Trenton) was the daughter of ALBERT JOSEPH MATELENA and DOROTHY RUTH SOUTHARD. They were engaged in the autumn of 1947 and married on 19 June 1948. Their life story is continued in a separate chapter.



<sup>1</sup> Baptismal Record B  
Transcript obtained  
Copy of original ce

<sup>2</sup> "Consent to the Ma  
Docket No. 3, 375  
PA. 18801; St. Ant

<sup>3</sup> Baptismal Record c

<sup>4</sup> Certificate of Matr

ijaujhely, Hungary.  
Washington, D.C. 20008.

ertificate of Marriage";  
ourt House, Montrose,  
ch in Forest City, PA.

, PA. 18651

holic Church, 612 Hudson

St., Forest City, PA. 18421

<sup>5</sup> Marriage announcement of Joseph Smith and Anna Kutarnia; 17 August 1905, Forest City News, 636 Main St., Forest City, Pa.

<sup>6</sup> 1910 US Census: Susquehanna Co, PA.; Forest City, 1st Ward, 18/19 April 1910, p. 6A, fa 102, dw 60, lines 39-44, ED 64.

<sup>7</sup> Mary (Smith) Neville, conversations with author, 1986 and 25 January 1989, Placentia, CA.

<sup>8</sup> "Declaration of Intention," filed 9 September 1909 (No. 5126); "Petition for Naturalization and Affidavits," filed 9 September 1911; and "Oath of Allegiance and Order of Court Admitting Petitioner," dated 28 December 1911; General Services Administration, Room 1350, 9th & Market Sts., Philadelphia, PA. 19107

<sup>9</sup> Frank Berri, Lackawanna County Recorder's Office (200 N. Washington Scranton, PA 18503) letter to author, 24 March 1995.

<sup>10</sup> Valentine W. Smith, conversation with author, circa 1985, Jupiter, FL.

<sup>11</sup> Mary (Smith) Neville (note 7)

<sup>12</sup> Military Registration Card for Joseph Smith, Serial No. 2926, Order No. A641, No. 37-4-34-C; Federal Archives and Records Center, 1557 St. Joseph Ave., East Point, GA. 30344

<sup>13</sup> Greek Catholic Union of Rusin Brotherhoods in the United States of America, Forest City Branch 23, Insurance Policy dated 15 June 1919; Greek Catholic Union 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009-9513.

<sup>14</sup> 1920 US Census: Susquehanna Co, PA.; Forest City Borough, 15 January 1920, p. 11B, dw 173, fa 189, lines 65-72, ED 68.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>16</sup> Doutt, Logan County, p. 10

<sup>17</sup> Doutt, Logan County, pp. 4-5

<sup>18</sup> Doutt, Logan County, p. 15

<sup>19</sup> Doutt, Logan County, p. 3; Kenny, WV Place Names, p. 72

<sup>20</sup> Sophie and Millie Kovich, conversation with author, 1993, Hollywood, CA.

<sup>21</sup> Mary (Smith) Neville (note 7)

<sup>22</sup> Mary (Smith) Neville (note 7)

<sup>23</sup> John J. Smith, conversation with author, August 1986, Trenton, NJ

<sup>24</sup> Jon-Eric Gilot, archivist, Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston; e-mails to author dated 25 and 26 February 2013 and 4 March 2013. Interestingly, on a hand-drawn map to the author from Irene Moore, dated 30 June 2002, she clearly labels the "Catholic Church" in Lorado yet Sophie and Millie Kovich, sisters, Roman Catholics and Lorado residents from the 1920s to the mid-1950s have categorically stated to the author more than once that there were no Roman Catholic Churches along the course of Buffalo Creek; the nearest services, which they attended, were at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Logan.

<sup>25</sup> The Verhovay Aid Association, Trenton Branch 13, policy number 70954, replacing policy number 45987, and policy number 70953 replacing 27138, 1 January 1924; William Penn Association, 709 Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15233, correspondence from, dated 15 July 2004. Their letter is somewhat confusing as they attribute policy number 70954 to Joseph, while the photocopy I have for this one is clearly Anna's. It is also not clear if the 1924 date is the date of the original policy or the replacement ones.

<sup>26</sup> 1920 US Census: Logan Co, WV; Triadelphia Township, 10 February 1920, p. 4A, dw 67, fa 68, lines 7 - 13, ED 38, film 154.

<sup>27</sup> Margaret Gurland, conversation with author, July 1995, Fresno, CA.

- <sup>28</sup> "County Is Visited By Worst Flood In Years," *The Logan Banner*, 26 September 1924, 1:6 (Logan, WV)
- <sup>29</sup> Mary (Smith) Neville (note 7)
- <sup>30</sup> Kathryn Spych, conversation with author, Trenton, NJ.
- <sup>31</sup> Doult, Logan County, p. 67
- <sup>32</sup> John J. Smith (note 23).
- <sup>33</sup> Number 271, 1237 South Broad Street, Trenton Tax Assessment Department, 14 April 1936; refers to Page 175, lot 16. Currently (2004) in possession of the Trenton Public Library, Main Branch, Jerseyanna Department.
- <sup>34</sup> Mercer County Deeds, x:189; Mercer County Court House, Trenton, NJ
- <sup>35</sup> Fitzgerald's Trenton & Mercer County Directory, 1928:95, 270; Fitzgerald's Directory Company, 14 N. Warren St., Trenton, NJ; available at Trenton Public Library, Main Branch.
- <sup>36</sup> "Flood Toll: 3 Dead; Property Loss \$1,000,000," *The Logan Banner*, 3 July 1928, 1:4 (Logan, WV)
- <sup>37</sup> Mercer County Mortgages, 502:343, recorded 4 December 1928; and 520:471, recorded 26 February 1930. Both mortgages describe the land as "Lot 16 on the Plan of Lots of the Trenton Realty Company filed 18 June 1904." Though the former gives 1237, while the latter has 1243 as the street number.
- <sup>38</sup> *Trenton Evening Times*, 8 August 1928, 10:7.
- <sup>39</sup> Fitzgerald's Trenton & Mercer County Directory, 1929, 889; Fitzgerald's Directory Company, 14 N. Warren St., Trenton, NJ; available at Trenton Public Library, Main Branch.
- <sup>40</sup> 1930 US Census: Mercer Co, NJ, Trenton, 11th Ward, block 524, 7 April 1930, ED 11-56, sht 9A, dw 128, fa 130, lines 8-16.
- <sup>41</sup> Fitzgerald's Trenton & Mercer County Directory; 1929; 1930:94, 875; 1931:782; 1932:741; 1933:726; 1934; 1935; 1936; 1938. Fitzgerald's Directory Company, 14 N. Warren St., Trenton, NJ.
- <sup>42</sup> Margaret Gurland, interview with author, 1995, Fresno, CA
- <sup>43</sup> "Saloonmen in Uproar Over Size of Beer," *Trenton Evening Times*, 28 June 1934, 1:5 and 16:1
- <sup>44</sup> Building Permit Number 37890, 30 June 1937. (note 34)
- <sup>45</sup> Fitzgerald's Trenton & Mercer County Directory; 1934, 712; 1935, 722, 1007; 1938, 733; 1950: 722; Fitzgerald's Directory Company, 14 N. Warren St., Trenton, NJ. R.L. Polk & Co. Trenton, Mercer County, Parts of Ewing, Hamilton, and Lawrence Directory, 1948, 845.
- <sup>46</sup> NJ Bell Telephone Directory, 1936, p.56; available at Trenton Public Library, Trenton, NJ.
- <sup>47</sup> Mercer County Deeds, 717:374, 19 December 1933; Mercer County Court House, Trenton, NJ.
- <sup>48</sup> Mercer County Deeds, 837:22, 13 April 1942; and Mercer County Mortgages, 633:297; Mercer County Court House, Trenton.
- <sup>49</sup> 1940 US Census: Mercer Co, NJ, Trenton, 11th Ward, block 45, 18 April 1940, ED 27-89, sheet 7A, dwelling 133, lines 24-30.
- <sup>50</sup> "Polish Falcons Get Bowling Right ... Commission Allows Saloon Change," *Trenton Evening Times*, 9 September 1940, 2.
- <sup>51</sup> "Liquor License Here Lifted for 30 Days," *Trenton Evening Times*, 17 October 1941, 13:3.
- <sup>52</sup> Greek Catholic Union (note 13)
- <sup>53</sup> Application for Social Security Account Number, Anna K. SMITH, No. 146-26-5298, 1 February 1952, Social Security Administration, Office of Central Records Operation, Baltimore, MD. 21201.

- <sup>54</sup> "Shot Misses, Prowler Flees From Rooftops," *Trenton Evening Times*, 14 June 1955, 1:2.
- <sup>55</sup> Valentine W. Smith, conversation with author, May 2004, North Palm Beach, FL.
- <sup>56</sup> Building Permit Number A24873, 8 June 1956 (note 34). Notice published in *Trenton Sunday Times Advertiser*, 17 June 1956, part 3, 12:4
- <sup>57</sup> *Trenton Sunday Times Advertiser*, 9 August 1959, part 3, 12:7
- <sup>58</sup> *Trenton Sunday Times Advertiser*, 30 April 1961, part 3, 8:3
- <sup>59</sup> *Trenton Evening Times*, 30 June 1959, 21:5.
- <sup>60</sup> Mercer County Deeds, 1661:79, 20 May 1963; Mercer County Mortgages, 1334:141; Mercer County Mortgages, 1341:447, 26 May 1963; Mercer County Court House, Trenton, NJ.
- <sup>61</sup> See Deeds, note 34.
- <sup>62</sup> St. Anthony Church records, on deposit at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 612 Hudson St., Forest City, PA. 18421.
- <sup>63</sup> 1940 US Census, NY, Albany; (and) Albany City Directories, 1929, 1936.
- <sup>64</sup> San Fernando Mission Cemetery, section E, lot 33, grave 10.
- <sup>65</sup> St. Anthony Church records (note 62)
- <sup>66</sup> 1920 US Census, Mercer County, NJ; Trenton, ED 71, p. 49.
- <sup>67</sup> 1940 US Census, Mercer County, NJ; Trenton, ED 27-47, p 13A.
- <sup>68</sup> St. Anthony Church records (note 62); Marriage #65 in Returns of Susquehanna County
- <sup>69</sup> St. Mary's Cemetery, Trenton, NJ, section 15F, lot 31.
- <sup>70</sup> Helen Smith, Certificate of Birth, File number 0170240-12, Lackawanna Co, PA Vital Records, Harrisburg, PA; and Holy Trinity R.C. Church Baptismal Register, in possession of St. Michael's R.C. Church, 46 Midland St., Simpson, Pa. 18407.
- <sup>71</sup> The Bobashela 1931: The Yearbook of Trenton Central High School, Volume 7
- <sup>72</sup> "Miss Smith Weds Owen (sic) J Dupras," *Sunday Times Advertiser*, 15 August 1937, part 2, 4:6
- <sup>73</sup> 1940 US Census, Mercer County, NJ; Trenton, ED 27-56, p 5A-B
- <sup>74</sup> Michael Smith, Certificate of Birth, Lackawanna County, File number 186521-13; Pennsylvania Vital Records, Harrisburg, PA.
- <sup>75</sup> St. Michael's R.C. Church Baptismal Register, 822 First Ave., Jessup, PA. 18434.
- <sup>76</sup> *Sunday Times Advertiser*, 15 June 1941, part 2, 4:5
- <sup>77</sup> The Bobashela 1935, The Yearbook of Trenton Central High School, Volume 11.
- <sup>78</sup> "Miss Smith To Wed August 16," *Sunday Times Advertiser*, 8 June 1941, part 2, 2:3
- <sup>79</sup> "Honored at Shower," *Trenton Evening Times*, 5 August 1941, 4:2
- <sup>80</sup> "Announce Marriage of Margaret Smith," *Sunday Times Advertiser*, 14 Sept 1941, part 2, 2:4.
- <sup>81</sup> "In Armed Forces Joins Husband in Military Service," *Sunday Times Advertiser*, 26 Sept 1943, part 4, 2:7
- <sup>82</sup> "USMC women's reserve at Henderson Hall (Arlington, VA)". Licensed under Public Domain, Wikipedia.
- <sup>83</sup> *Trenton Evening Times*, 28 January 1946, 11:4

- <sup>84</sup> John Smith, Certificate of Birth, File number 101392-20, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania Vital Records, Harrisburg, PA.
- <sup>85</sup> "Engaged to Wed Lt. John Smith," *Trenton Sunday Times Advertiser*, 10 September 1944, 2:1
- <sup>86</sup> MaryJane Smith, obituary; *Fresno Bee*, 13 February 2011.
- <sup>87</sup> St. Michael's Church records, on deposit at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 561 Main St., Logan, WV 25601.
- <sup>88</sup> 1940 US Census, Mercer County, NJ; Trenton, ED 27-30.
- <sup>89</sup> Valentine Smith, Certificate of Live Birth, No. 147-41390; WV Dep't. of Health, Division of Vital Statistics, Charleston, WV
- <sup>90</sup> St. Michael's Church records (note 75)
- <sup>91</sup> The Bobashela 1942: The Yearbook of Trenton Central High School, Volume 18.
- <sup>92</sup> Valentine W. Smith, conversation with author, 25 May 2004, Juno Beach, FL.
- <sup>93</sup> World War II Reserve Corps Records, Reel 1.97, Box 104, Serial # 12211771; <https://www.myheritage.com/research/record-10036-70328/valentine-w-smith-in-world-war-ii-reserve-corps-records>
- <sup>94</sup> USS *Sabik*, AK-121, commissioned 19 April 1944, remained in National Defense Reserve Fleet as SS *William Becknell*, sold for scrap 30 October 1961; [http://everything.explained.today/USS\\_Sabik\\_\(AK-121\)/](http://everything.explained.today/USS_Sabik_(AK-121)/)
- <sup>95</sup> Discharges of Military Personnel, vol. 16, p.178, Mercer County Court House, Trenton, NJ.
- <sup>96</sup> Valentine W. Smith, conversation with author, July 1995, Fresno, CA.